



# AIKIYAM SCHOOL (NCBS)

"Harmony | Oneness | Unity"

## AN APPEAL

### Introduction

Aikiyam School is an Auroville outreach school serving more than 250 children from the neighbouring villages of Kulilapalyam and Bomiarpalayam. The children range in age from three to thirteen or fourteen years old and are in classes from Crèche to the eighth grade.



The school was founded in the late 1980's and is presently managed by a core team containing teachers from different sections of the school and the Principal, supported by a Support Group of Aurovilians. Our aim is to prepare children for life in the rapidly changing modern world while keeping close contact with their Tamil village roots.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) curriculum was introduced in 2007 because of its emphasis upon creative stimulation and recognition of the uniqueness of each child. CBSE accreditation is recognised throughout India.

When the school started, the families were very poor, and could not afford to pay for the education of their children, so the school program, which includes a mid-day meal and two nutritious snacks per day, was entirely funded by Auroville and the donations of well-wishers. Today, with India's increasing prosperity, and the better financial circumstances of the families, we are charging parents a modest fee to help cover our costs.

However, many families cannot pay the full amount, and some struggle to pay even a modest fee, while a few are not able to contribute anything.

### Costs of Education

In 2019-20, it costs Rs 34,200 (\$490 or 440€) to educate one child and provide a nutritious lunch as well as 2 healthy snacks per day for one year at Aikiyam School. Fortunately, Auroville covers approximately 62% of this amount, leaving a need of Rs 13,200 (\$190 or 170€) per child per year. There are 255 children at Aikiyam. On average they give a contribution of Rs 8,100 (\$116 or 105€) per year.

**We still need to find Rs 5,100 (\$75 or 65€) per year for each child. As a whole, Aikiyam needs to find an additional Rs 13 lakhs (\$18,500 or €16,600) to cover its yearly expenses.**

The cost of running the school includes salaries, bonuses, and staff benefits. We have a staff of around thirty teachers, including the school principal, librarian, and resource manager. Additionally, we have seven cleaning and cooking staff, one maintenance man, one gardener, two secretaries, and one administrator. Auroville covers the maintenance of those teachers and staff members who are members of the Auroville community. The rest, which includes fourteen teachers and most of our non-teaching staff,

must be covered by donations and the fees we get from students. Teachers' pay is very low in comparison to what they might earn in a government school. We have not been able to increase their wages as much as we would like, as our expenditures are already exceeding our income.





## What their Education Includes

An Aikiyam education includes:

- A value-based education in Tamil and English from crèche to grade 8
- An individualized education programme for children with special needs
- All of the regular academic courses
- Art and Art Therapy
- Two hours of sports every day
- An hour of swimming per week
- Computer Classes
- At least 5 hours per week of optional classes including tailoring, carpentry, clay-work, singing, dancing, painting, drawing, or drama
- A nutritious lunch and 2 healthy snacks per day
- Two weeks of summer camp for the upper grades
- School field trips
- A safe and happy environment



## Any amount you can afford to help these children is welcome!

There are many ways to donate to Auroville, depending on whether you donate from inside or outside India and whether or not you require income tax exemption. You may also donate online. Just go to [www.auroville.org/contents/2835](http://www.auroville.org/contents/2835) and choose the way that is suitable for you. Regardless of your choice please be sure to write to [aikiyamschool@auroville.org.in](mailto:aikiyamschool@auroville.org.in) with copy to [unityfund@auroville.org.in](mailto:unityfund@auroville.org.in) explaining that your donation is for Aikiyam School. Any questions? Please let us know. Contact details are below.

**Thank you!**

