

## **James Gillespie's High School Parent Council Small Sums Fund: How it Works**

### **What is the Small Sums Fund?**

The Small Sums Fund is intended to provide additional resources to support and enhance the experience of youngsters in the school and in extra-curricular activities, in areas where funding is not provided by the City of Edinburgh Council.

It provides a mechanism to distribute funds raised by the Parent Council back to the school community, to support the aims of the Parent Council as set out in its constitution, i.e:

- to raise standards of education in the school
- to secure improvements in the quality of education which the school provides, and
- to develop to their fullest potential the personality, talents and mental and physical abilities of the pupils attending the school.

### **Who can apply to the Small Sums Fund?**

The JGHS Parent Council Small Sums Fund is open to staff, pupils and anyone connected to the school to bid for funding.

### **What type of activities can be supported?**

Examples include extra-curricular activities, curricular activities and wider school activities, e.g. after-school clubs, resources for teaching in school, support for trips.

### **How much is awarded?**

Awards vary but are usually in the range £25 to £600. Larger awards will be considered, if funding is available.

### **Where does the money come from?**

The surplus funds in the parent council account for the school year (August to July), raised from fundraising activities and social events. There is also a contribution from the City of Edinburgh Council grant provided annually based on the number of pupils on the school roll, once PC running costs have been deducted.

### **Why is the money only given out once a year?**

The funding is made available after the end of the accounting year when the accounts have been audited. If there is one distribution of funding each year then we can be sure that the same criteria for funding are used for all requests. We try to distribute the funding as equally as possible across different activities and subject areas.

### **Who decides on what gets funded?**

A group of parents, including the Parent Council Treasurer and those who have helped to organize events and raise funds during the year, are invited to meet and agree the allocation of funding.

### **Are all requests fully funded?**

No, in the past few years we have not had enough money to fully fund all requests:

In 2015 we received requests for £6046.27 and we funded £3393.57

In 2016 we received requests for £6117.12 and we funded £3023.23

In 2017 we received requests for £5746.39 and we funded £4432.46

In 2018 we received requests for £11273.84 and we funded £5733.50

In 2019 we received requests for £12616.53 and we funded £7956.53

**What can I do to help?**

We are always looking for people to help organise fundraising events, e.g. a raffle at a school event, pub quiz, wine tasting.

The Fundraising and Social Events Group can be contacted on [jghsfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:jghsfundraisingcommittee@gmail.com)

The Parent Council itself raises money by organising refreshments stalls at school events such as parent consultations and concerts, and we are grateful for any volunteers.

The Parent Council website can be found at <http://jghscouncil.btck.co.uk/> or via the school website under the 'Parents' tab

Email: [jghscouncilcomms@gmail.com](mailto:jghscouncilcomms@gmail.com)

We are grateful to all those who attend events, buy tickets, give a donation, and buy refreshments at events.

**How can I help through EasyFundraising?**

EasyFundraising is a scheme for groups to raise funds from online purchases at no cost to the buyer. For more information on how to support “**JGHS Parent Council – Edinburgh**” see: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/jghsparentcouncil/>

You can download an add-on to your browser which will alert you if the site you are buying from can donate to EasyFundraising, and will make the donation automatically.