



The James Gillespie's Trust Trustees' Annual Report

Period From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022



The Trust has been able to support school projects, for example, a new project called Seasons for Growth, aimed at improving young people's attainment and wellbeing when faced with significant change and loss experiences.

Charity contact information



The James Gillespie's Trust

Scottish Charity Number: SC022811

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Website: <http://www.jamesgillespiestrust.com>

Facebook profile name: James Gillespie's Trust

Charity Trustees

1. Ann Henderson (stepped down October 2021)
2. Jean Knox
3. Sheena Purdom
4. Jan Melvin
5. Bruce Crawford
6. Fiona Denvir (stepped down October 2021)
7. Donald Macdonald (stepped down June 2022)
8. Ian Porter
9. Melanie Main (stepped down May 2022)



Ann Henderson



Donald Macdonald



Jean Knox



Sheena Purdom



Fiona Denvir



Ian Porter



Bruce Crawford



Melanie Main



Jan Melvin

Objectives and activities

James Gillespie's Trust was set up in 1994 to advance the education and improve the circumstances of the students of James Gillespie's High School, Edinburgh, by:

1. Supporting the School in providing a high-quality learning and teaching environment for all, including the wider community;
2. promoting, supporting and helping to resource projects, programmes and initiatives designed to enhance the education delivered by the School, whether local, national or international, with which the School may from time to time be associated including the provision of resources, through such projects, programmes and initiatives, to partner institutions of the school wheresoever they may be situated;
3. promoting and conducting research related to developing the educational role of the School and by providing briefings on this research;
4. promoting and conducting research into the history of the school and associated matters;
5. facilitating communication between and among students, staff, parents, former students, the community, the Parent Council or any successor organisations representing or involving the parents of students at the School; and
6. delivering resources and support to students, staff or parents/carers to help deliver the above purposes effectively.

The Trust's Main Activities

- Small Grants Scheme - to disburse funds to realisable student projects. This scheme will account for no more than 10% of the Trust's assets in any year, in grants of up to £300.
- Grants to the school to support field trips, residential experiences and special projects.
- Organising activities for the alumni of the school. In past years we have had open mornings for the alumni to peruse our archives, a literary event celebrating the centenary of Muriel Spark's birth and tours round both the old school and the new one.
- We act as a resource to help inform current practice based on past experience.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

James Gillespie's Trust is governed by a Trust Deed which has been updated three times since 1994 to reflect changing circumstances.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

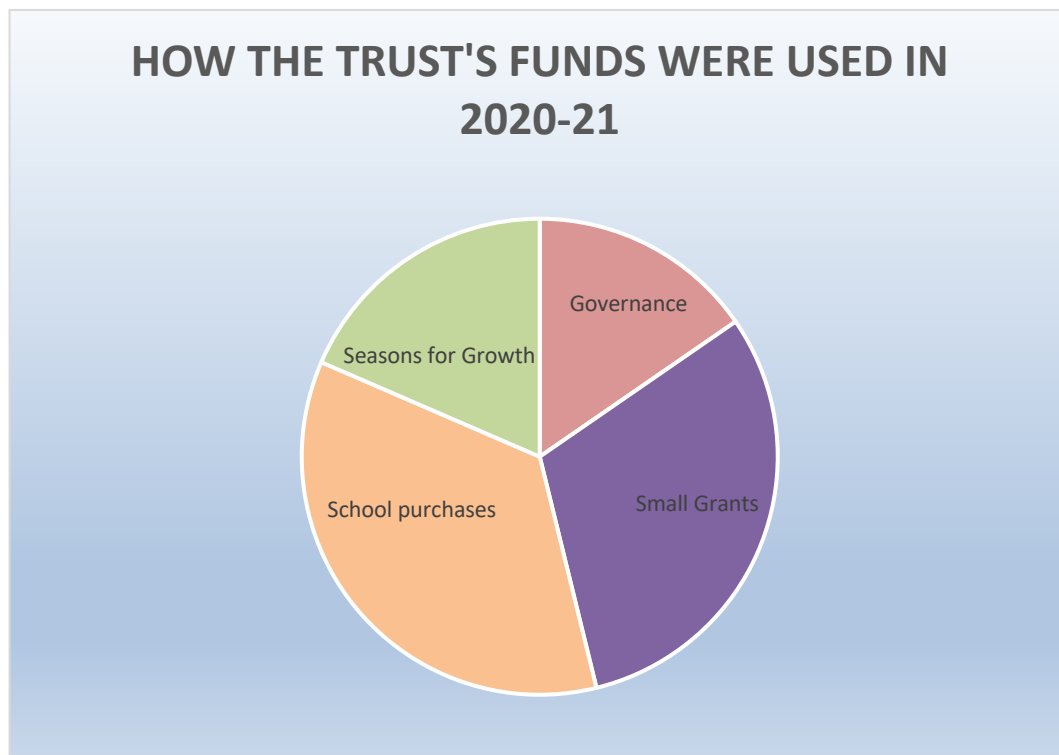
Trustees and office-bearers are appointed at the AGM and, on occasions, during the year. Trustees come from a range of backgrounds: JGHS headteacher and depute headteacher, Parent Council for JGHS, local councillors for the school catchment area and alumni from the school. In the past year four Trustees stood down from the Trust.

Achievements and performance



- The Small Grants Scheme allows pupils or staff to apply for funds for realisable projects. A number of small grants have been allocated to recent applicants, one of which was to fund resources for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
- The Trust made some larger grants to the school for specific items and to help support pupils during difficult circumstances.
- The Trust is working with the City of Edinburgh Council Archive Department to make the school archive collection available digitally to all who are interested. This is a longer-term project.
- The Trust funded a pilot scheme to support an initiative for a Basketball School to help improve engagement, behaviour, attendance and mental wellbeing at JGHS. This has been a successful project and may be funded in future years.
- Closer links have been established with Pupil Voice, the representative body for the James Gillespie's students, and Pupil Voice representatives contribute to each Trust meeting.

Financial review



Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

It is the policy of the Trust to maintain unrestricted funds which are the free reserves of the Trust at a level sufficient to sustain current expenditure for a period of six months without any income. It is estimated that a figure of approximately £2000 would provide sufficient funds to cover management and administration costs and to cover costs incurred in furtherance of the charity's objectives for that period.

At the moment the Trust is holding much more than this figure due to a very generous bequest from a former pupil and welcomes applications for funding in accordance with the Trust's aims and objectives.

Future plans

Once the coronavirus restrictions have been sufficiently relaxed the Trust has plans to continue supporting the annual reception at the City Chambers for the parents of school leavers. The Trust is also very keen to support individual applications for small grants and to consider requests for bigger grants relating to school activities.

The Trust is planning to work with the City of Edinburgh Archive Department to have some of the school's archive collection digitised so that it can be accessed online for research.

Additional information

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Sheena M. Purdom

Print name

Sheena Purdom

Designation

Chair, J.G. Trust

Date

1 July 2022