

# 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 and wider school activities, e.g. after-school clubs, support for trips.

**Funding for classroom resources intended to deliver the curriculum (e.g. textbooks, classroom equipment, software) is provided by the school. Applications for funding for resources *in addition to* or to *supplement* curriculum delivery, can be made through the Small Sums Fund, and these will be prioritised over activities usually funded by the City of Edinburgh Council budget to the school.**

#### How much is awarded?

Usually under £1000. 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. If we have funds left over when the main allocation process is complete, we may run a supplementary round of applications after New Year.

## **What is the timescale?**

Applications are invited around end of April or beginning of May for the following school year, with a closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> July (end of the PC's financial year). As soon as the accounts are completed and audited and our end of year surplus is known, we review the bids and allocate the money as soon as possible in the new school year.

## **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, review the bids and agree the allocation of funding.

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

In the past few years we have usually not been able to fully fund all requests; however the JGHS Trust has supported the process and funded some bids in previous years. The Trust has now changed its process and invites separate applications for funding (see below).

The Parent Council's income from fundraising was significantly curtailed during the pandemic when we weren't able to run refreshment stalls and fundraising events, but these activities restarted in the school year 2022-23.

## **Where can I see details of the grants made through the Small Sums Fund?**

Details of applications to the fund and the final allocation of grants are uploaded to the Parent Council website as soon as the process is complete each year. The documents from previous years can be found here:

<https://jghsparentcouncil.org/about/jghs-parent-council-small-sums-fund/>

## **Are there any other sources of funding available?**

The JGHS Trust also invites applications from school staff and from individual pupils for funding, through a separate process. Please see their website:

<https://www.jamesgillespietrust.com/funding-requests/>

## What can I do to help increase the funds available for these projects?

### Get involved!

- Help review applications to the Small Sums Fund – join the PC and its finance sub-committee
- Help organise fundraising events, e.g. a raffle at a school event, pub quiz, wine tasting
- Help with the refreshments stalls at school events such as parent consultations and concerts

If you're interested, please email: [jghscouncilcomms@gmail.com](mailto:jghscouncilcomms@gmail.com)

### ParentPay

The ParentPay appeal was set up a few years ago as a Festive Fundraiser instead of a collection at the Usher Hall concert. It proved popular because it is quick and easy to donate, and is now a permanent appeal. Simply click on the Parent Council donation button next time you log into ParentPay to make a payment for your child.

### 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 (please note that this add-on may not work if you use an ad-blocker).