

James Gillespie's Trust

The James Gillespie's Trust was established in 1994 to provide support and funding for educational and extra-curricular activities within James Gillespie's High School.

The stated mission of the Trust is to promote the welfare of James Gillespie's High School and to establish mutually beneficial relationships between the school, alumni and the community.

The executive work of the Trust is conducted by the Trust Administrator, currently Jean Knox (retiring at the end of the year), and several volunteers.

The current representative from the Parent Council is Vikki Plant.

Projects

Trust members communicate with both Pupil Voice, and the Parent Council about working together for the good of the whole school community, most recently agreeing to support:

- An S6 Common Room at the Darroch Annexe
- The JGHS team in Honeycomb Racing, the F1 in Schools (a STEM based challenge) which went on to win the 2023 World finals in Singapore in September.

The Trust has previously been able to provide funding towards school projects such as Seasons for Growth, aimed at improving young people's attainment and wellbeing when faced with significant change and loss experiences and has organised plaques for school buildings.

The Trust has also supported: the Duke of Edinburgh programme; the S1 residential; A+ anti-racism work; the nurture group; a pilot basketball project (to support pupil engagement and mental wellbeing); the South African project (IRIS initiative); and the breakfast club.

A further ongoing project is 'Living Stories': a two-year Oral History project to gather, curate and archive the oral history of James Gillespie's School in the Bruntsfield and Marchmont communities of Edinburgh with assistance from the heritage lottery fund.

Funding Applications

James Gillespie's Trust operates two funding schemes: one for students at James Gillespie's High School (Small Grants) and one for staff (Staff Funding Requests).

Applicants must demonstrate that the Trust's support will make a real difference to the project and that the project will not be able to proceed without the Trust's support. The trustees will not be prescriptive about the type of project they will support but, for guidance, they have in mind proposals involving:

- the establishment or development of clubs or societies within the School for students or the wider community
- travel to sporting or cultural events and competitions
- performance, exhibition, publishing
- improving access to sporting, cultural and educational activities
- promoting cultural exchange

- improving the environment or ambience of the School and community.

Criteria for small grants:

- Applicants must be current or former members of the school register and aged between 11 and 18 years at the time of application.
- Applications must be endorsed by a member of the senior management team.
- Applications can be for no more than a total of £500.
- Applications should demonstrate a clear sustainable benefit to the school.

Criteria for staff funding:

(This scheme will account for no more than 20% of the Trust's assets in any year.)

- Applicants must be current members of the school staff.
- Applications can be for no more than a total of £3,000.
- Applications should demonstrate a clear sustainable benefit to the school.

Small grant application forms are on the website:

<https://www.jamesgillespietrust.com/>

and the Trust can be contacted by email at: mail.jgtrust@gmail.com

Trustees:

Mrs Sheena Purdom, Chair, (Former pupil and parent of former pupil)

Mr Neil McCallum, (Headteacher, JGHS)

Mrs Pauline Flannery (Local Authority Councillor for the area)

Mrs Jean Knox, Treasurer (Former pupil)

Mr Bruce Crawford (Parent)

Ms Vikki Plant (Parent Council Representative)

Mr Ian Porter, (Depute Headteacher, JGHS)

Ms Susan Scullion (joined May 2023)

Mr Ross Grimley (joined May 2023)