



The James Gillespie's Trust Trustees' Annual Report

Period From 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019



James Gillespie's bust in its new cabinet home.



Alan Taylor with Doris Keir, a classmate of Muriel Spark, at our literary event.



Annual JGHS Christmas Concert in the Usher Hall.

Charity contact information



The James Gillespie's Trust

Scottish Charity Number: SC022811

120 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh

EH9 1DD

Email: mail.jgtrust@gmail.com

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

Facebook profile name: James Gillespie's Trust

Charity Trustees

1. Ann Henderson
2. Jean Knox
3. Sheena Purdom
4. Allison Naismith
5. Robbie McVeigh (stood down March 2019)
6. Fiona Denvir
7. Donald Macdonald
8. Ian Porter
9. Melanie Main



From the left clockwise: Allison Naismith, Ann Henderson, Donald Macdonald, Melanie Main, Fiona Denvir, Robbie McVeigh, Ian Porter, Jean Knox, Sheena Purdom.

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 twice since 1994 to reflect changing circumstances.

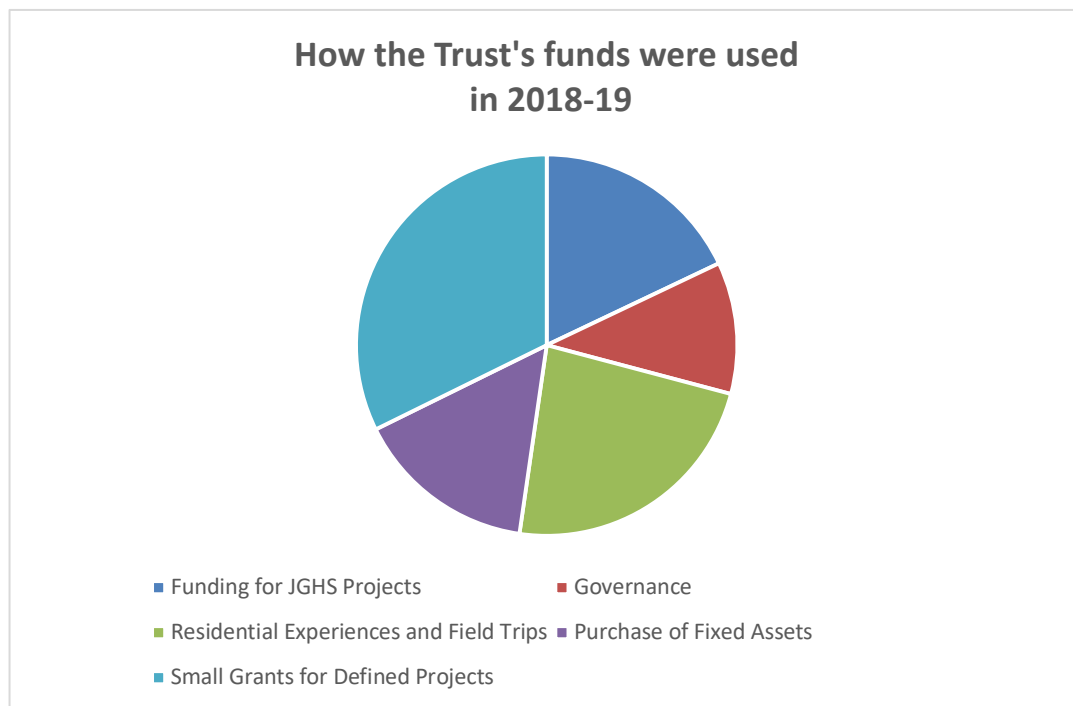
Trustee recruitment and appointment

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 one more Trustee was appointed from the local councillors for the school catchment area in keeping with the guidelines within the Trust Deed.

Achievements and performance

- The Small Grants Scheme allows pupils to apply for funds for realisable projects. A number have been allocated to recent applicants, all connected with Project Trust initiatives. Some funding was also given to support participants in the Royal Conservatoire Youth Guitar Orchestra.
- The Trust helped to fund a special evening at the City Chambers for parents of school leavers.
- The Trust supported families in ensuring the children could attend the S1 residential experience at Lockerbie Manor Activity Centre.
- Trustees have assisted researchers in using the archives relating to former pupils of James Gillespie's High School.
- Information plaques for each building on the school campus have been installed and a display cabinet for the marble bust of James Gillespie has been created and installed.
- The centenary of Muriel Spark's birth was celebrated with a special literary event with Alan Taylor interviewed by Jane Fowler about his friendship with Muriel Spark. His book about Muriel, and her newly republished novels were on sale afterwards.

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

Following on from the successful event to celebrate the centenary of Muriel Spark's birth, the Trust is investigating the possibility of organising other similar events to be enjoyed by both current parents and alumni of James Gillespie's High School.

The Trust also plans to fund a restoration of the Alison Laidlaw Memorial Garden after damage was done to it during the school rebuild.

Additional information

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Ann Henderson

Print name

Ann Henderson

Designation

Chair, J.G. Trust

Date

1 September 2019