



The James Gillespie's Trust Trustees' Annual Report

Period From 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020



Chair Ann Henderson at the launch of Norma Allan's book about her time at JGHS.



Hector Friend during his year teaching in Nepal



Eva Sigudottir during her year teaching in Chile

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
2. Jean Knox
3. Sheena Purdom
4. Jan Melvin (started December 2019)
5. Allison Naismith (stood down October 2019)
6. Bruce Crawford (started 4 February 2020)
7. Fiona Denvir
8. Donald Macdonald
9. Ian Porter
10. Melanie Main
11. Alison Dickie



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.

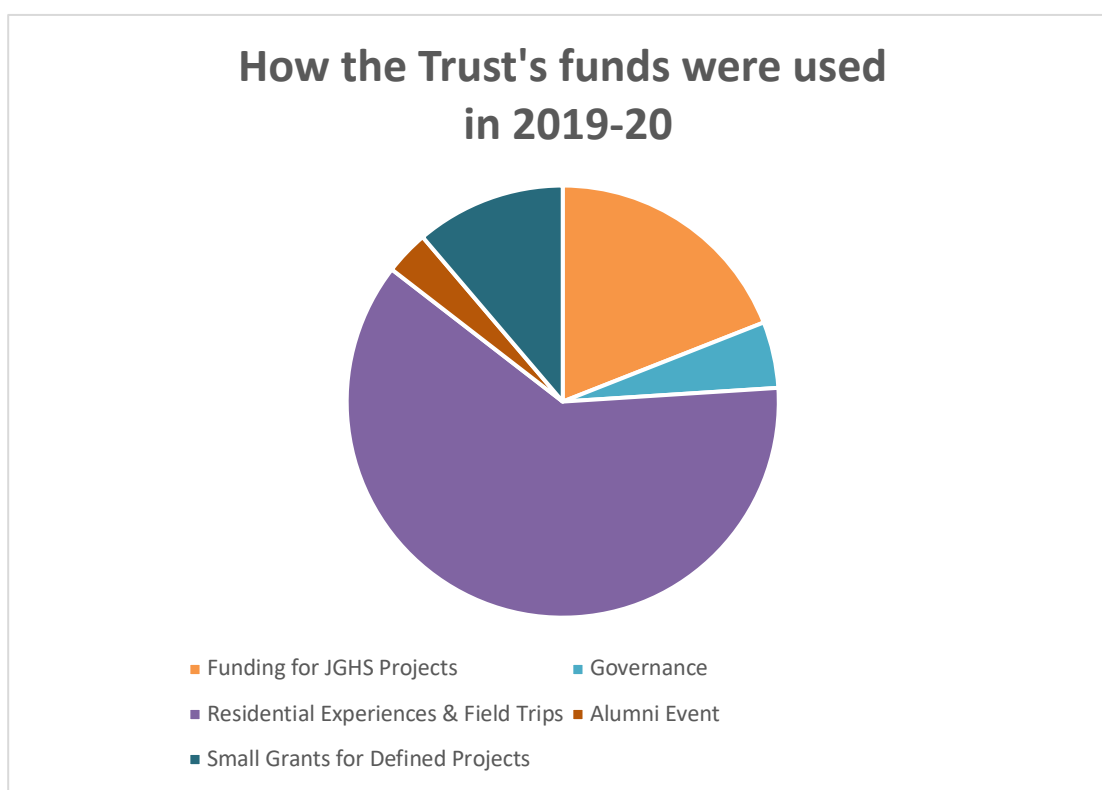
Trustee recruitment and appointment

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 Trustee stood down from the Trust, one more Trustee was appointed from the local councillors for the school catchment area and one from the Parent Council 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 of small grants have been allocated to recent applicants, some connected with Project Trust initiatives:
 - Elaine Oram - S1 Community Breakfast Café to run from January to June 2020.
 - Team Onair - design, construction and racing of a model F1 car. The competition is run by Formula 1 themselves and the team competed in the Scotland finals.
 - Eilidh Cargill – 12 months volunteer teaching in India.
- The Trust supported families in ensuring the children could attend the S1 residential experience at Lockerbie Manor Activity Centre. (Sep 2019)
- The Trust helped to fund some pupils on the visit to South Africa (Feb 2020)
- The Trust decided to gift the school archives to the City of Edinburgh Archive department and some of the Trustees prepared the archives and co-ordinated the collection process. (Sep 2019)
- The Trust helped fund an event to launch and promote a book about James Gillespie's High School in the 40s, 50s & 60s , compiled by former pupil Norma Allan.
- The Alison Laidlaw Memorial Garden has been restored after damage caused during the school rebuild.
- Work with the Parent Council has taken place throughout the year. This has included exchanging regular reports between the respective Chairs, and ongoing discussions around proposals for fundraising projects.

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.

Additional information

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Ann Henderson

Print name

Ann Henderson

Designation

Chair, J.G. Trust

Date

19 August 2020