



# The James Gillespie's Trust Trustees' Annual Report

Period From 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021



The Trust has been able to support school projects, for example, the JGHS Pipe Band asked us to fund the purchase of some electric chanters (see image on right) to enable the band to comply with Covid-19 guidelines and resume face-to-face tuition.

## Charity contact information



The James Gillespie's Trust

Scottish Charity Number: SC022811

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Facebook profile name: James Gillespie's Trust

## Charity Trustees

1. Ann Henderson
2. Jean Knox
3. Sheena Purdom
4. Jan Melvin
5. Bruce Crawford (started December 2020)
6. Fiona Denvir
7. Donald Macdonald
8. Ian Porter
9. Melanie Main
10. Alison Dickie (stepped down December 2020)



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

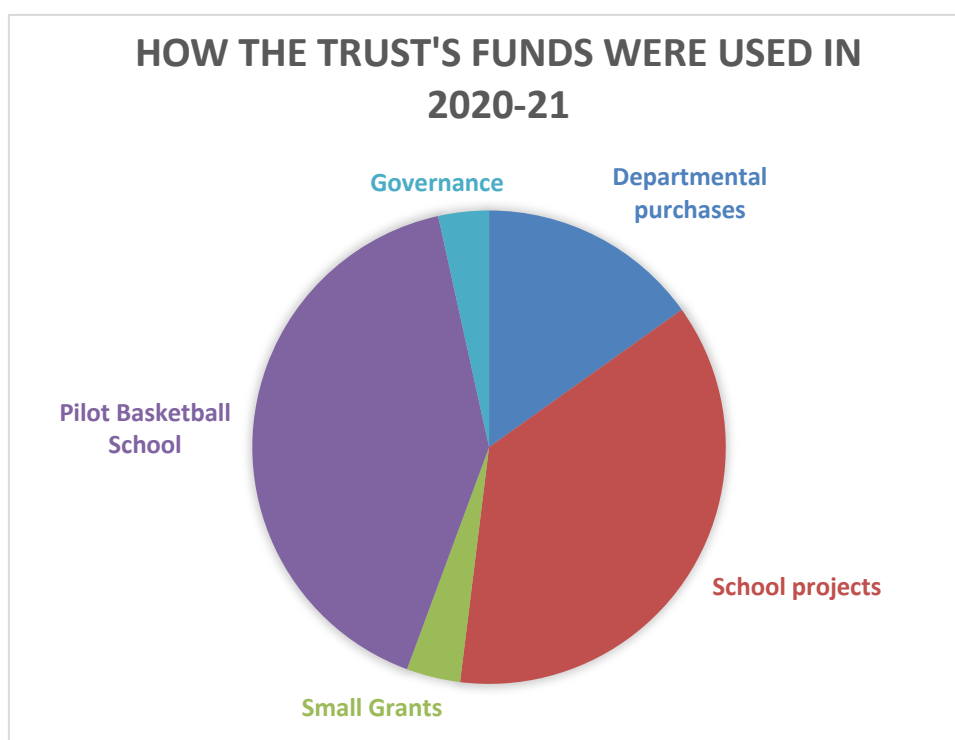
Trustees and office-bearers are appointed at the AGM and, on occasions, during the year. Trustees come from a range of backgrounds: JGHS headteacher and depute headteacher, Parent Council for JGHS, local councillors for the school catchment area and alumni from the school. In the past year one Trustee stood down from the Trust and one more Trustee was appointed from the parent body 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:
  - Electronic chanters to enable pipe band practice to continue during Covid
  - Team Fibonacci - 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.
- The Trust made several grants to the school for specific items and to help support pupils during Covid
- The Trust is pursuing the possibility of making the school archive collection available digitally to all who are interested. This is a longer-term project.
- The Trust is funding a pilot scheme to support an initiative for a Basketball School to help improve engagement, behaviour, attendance and mental wellbeing at JGHS.
- 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:

Ann Henderson

Print name

Ann Henderson

Designation

Chair, J.G. Trust

Date

1 July 2021