



# **The James Gillespie's Trust Trustees' Annual Report**

Period From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024



## ***S1 Residential***



## ***Darroch Sports Equipment***

The Trust are delighted to have supported and funded a number of projects during the year.



## Charity contact information

The James Gillespie's Trust

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Facebook: James Gillespie's Trust

## Charity Trustees

1. Sheena Purdom (chair)
2. Bruce Crawford (deputy chair Nov. 2023)
3. Jean Knox (treasurer - retired Nov. 2023)
4. Susan Scullion (treasurer - Nov. 2023)
5. Vikki Plant (Parent Council - secretary Nov. 2023)
6. Liz Boakes (Parent Council - joined Sept. 2023)
7. Ross Grimley
8. Neil McCallum (Head Teacher)
9. Ian Porter (Depute Head Teacher)
10. Pauline Flannery (Local Councillor))



**Bruce Crawford**



**Lizzie Boakes**



**Ian Porter**



**Pauline Flannery**



**Neil McCallum**



**Vikki Plant**



**Ross Grimley**



**Susan Scullion**



**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, 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 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, Parent Council or any successor organisations representing or involving the parents of students; 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 20% of the Trust's assets in any year, in grants of up to £500.
- Staff Grants to support field trips, residential experiences and special projects.
- Assisting and attending at alumni events 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, experiences, knowledge and skills:

- JGHS headteacher and depute headteacher;
- Parent Council for JGHS and JGPS;
- local councillor for the school catchment area and
- alumni from the school.

At our AGM in November 2023, Jean Knox retired as Treasurer, Alumni Co-ordinator and Administrator. We wish to express our sincere thanks to Jean for her commitment, dedication and sterling work for so many years – a new treasurer, secretary and deputy chair were appointed.

The Trust also has a dedicated and hard-working team of Alumni members who regularly liaise with the Trustees to achieve our objectives and we look forward to developing this in the future.

## **Achievements and performance**

We received a wide range of Staff Grant applications during the year. This process allows staff to apply for funding where other financial support is in place but the Trust's support will make a real difference and the project would not be able to proceed without our support.

Here are details of some of the projects we funded during 2024:

### **Art Terrace Tree Garden (May 2024)**

One such application was awarded funds to create a green learning space with seating for a number of outdoor learning. This project will not only help the school environment but also encourage and support the students' connection with nature.

It aims to provide a wide diversity of learning experiences and improve the overall general health and wellbeing of all students. It will also create a small oasis of nature and biodiversity within the campus and transform what was an unused space into a multi-purpose teaching area.

### **Sports Equipment at Darroch Annexe (November 2023)**

The Trust, alongside a contribution from the Parent Council Small Sums Fund, provided mobile basketball and football equipment for use at the new outdoor space at Darroch Annexe. This equipment has encouraged more pupils to socialise whilst using this space, to participate in extra-curricular sport and assist in their general well-being.

### **A+ Group (September 2023)**

We had awarded funding in 2023 to The A+ Group, which supports pupils of colour and their families, when the Group ran a 6 month pilot project. Such was the success, we awarded further funding in 2024 to continue supporting their invaluable work and in order to reach out to more families who are from a broad range of demographics. All the families involved are keen to celebrate and share their heritage, and to contribute to achieving racial equality in school, for example, discussing ways to decolonise the curriculum. The Group also works to support particular needs that families feel are not currently being met.

[Read the 2023 report from the A+ Group about their activities](#)

### **S1 Residential (September 2023)**

The Trust awarded money to the S1 Residential at the Lockerbie Manor Outdoor Education to cover costs for pupils who could not otherwise have attended. This type of residential trips are unique experiences and form many lasting memories for those students. The S1s had a fantastic time despite the weather and mud – please see the photo on page 1.

The Small Grants Scheme allows pupils to apply for funds for realisable projects. An example of this is:

### **S4/5 European Youth Parliament National (September 2024)**

We awarded funding towards the travel and accommodation for 9 students to attend the National Finals in Liverpool in September 2024 – we wish them every success at the competition.

### **Alumni**

The Alumni team kindly organised “The April Gathering” in 2024 which was a great success and well attended. The Trustees wish to thank all those involved and for the donation from those present.

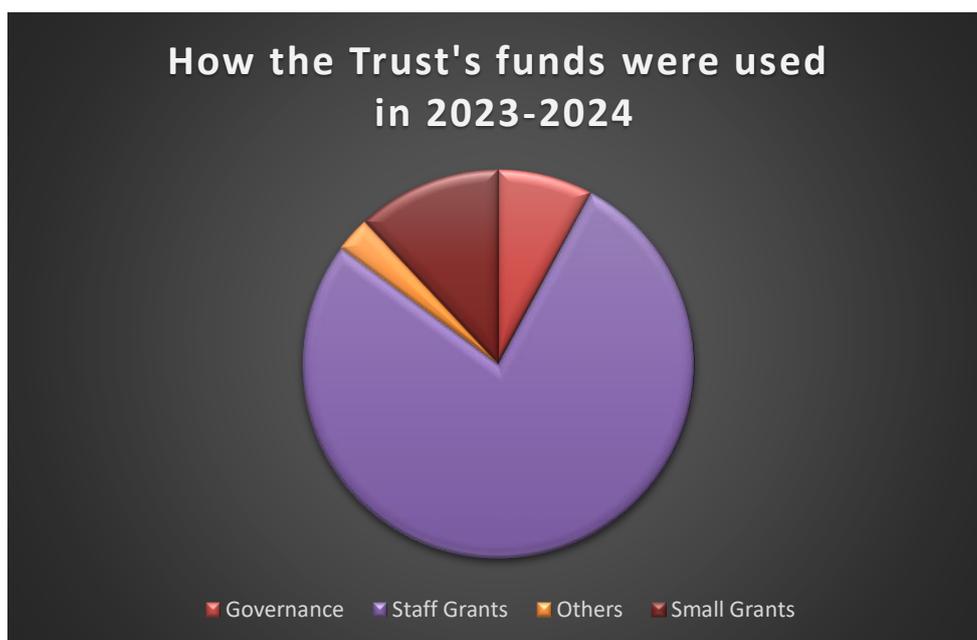
It was an opportunity for Alumni to view memorabilia, share memories and renew old friendships - below is a link to some photos taken at the event:

<https://www.jamesgillespiestrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/GG-exhibits.pdf>

We look forward to the next gathering on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024:

<https://www.jamesgillespiestrust.com/jghs-reunions-and-meetups/>

## 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 £2,000 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 a few years ago and so we welcome applications for funding in accordance with the Trust's aims and objectives.

### Future plans

The Trust is continuing to work with the City of Edinburgh Archive Department to have more of the school's archive collection digitised so that it can be accessed online for research.

## Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

*Sheena M. Purdom*

Print name

Sheena Purdom

Designation

**Chair of The James Gillespie's Trust**

Date

**7<sup>th</sup> August 2024**