



Consultation on the Future of Gordon's School Parents' Association

Formal Consultation Period

Tuesday 2nd July 2024 to Monday 30th September 2024

Gordon's School Parents' Association – Future Proposals

SUMMARY

- ISSUE: The GSPA is facing a situation where there are insufficient volunteer parents to run the committee in its current format.
- OPTIONS: We have three broad options:
 1. Maintain existing committee - Continue as it is, *only if* new members volunteer to join the committee and deliver events.
 2. Slimline committee and role of GSPA - Shrink the committee and ask the school to take on some of the functions of the GSPA.
 3. Dissolve the GSPA - Dissolve the committee and discontinue the GSPA.
- Action requested: This document seeks views from parents on these options as part of a consultation.
- Decision timeline: A decision will be made by the committee at the AGM on 12th October 2024, with a decision communicated to parents by 1st November 2024.

ISSUE

The GSPA is a registered charity listed with the Charities Commission, registered charity number 1153571. The GSPA is run by a committee of parent volunteers who organise social and fund-raising events to support the school and enhance the overall experience for Gordon's students.

Over the past few years, especially following COVID, committee numbers have decreased as more members resign than are recruited each year. The GSPA is currently a committee of 15 members down from 25 prior to COVID.

At the end of this academic year (AGM October 2024), a significant number of the committee will be stepping down, including the Vice Chair and Secretary. The following year further members will be leaving including the current Chair. The Treasurer has been in post for six years and has expressed a wish to handover the finances for several years now without a successor coming forward.

For the past two years, the GSPA has recruited only two new members each September and this means there are not enough new members for 2024/2025 and changes will have to be made as to how the GSPA operates. The GSPA is at risk of not having the minimum statutory requirement of elected trustees and insufficient committee members to be able to function successfully.

Added to this situation is a measurable decrease in attendance at GSPA events, and therefore income. This has impacted the ability of the GSPA to donate back to the school. Long-standing support towards items such as student Christmas parties and the year-end marquee have had to be withdrawn. The school is having to find these funds themselves, impacting other areas of expenditure.

The events the GSPA currently organise are each managed by a different committee member and run alongside various events that the school manage. The committee are all volunteers with jobs and families, and reduced committee numbers is impacting the number of events that can be run. However, there is a new event management team that has been formed by the School's Development Office who may be able take on the organisation of events previously run by the GSPA.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Maintain Existing Committee

The committee continues without governance changes and continues to recruit from the parent body, with the hope that current or new members step up to the various positions as they are vacated. **This option is only viable if new members join the committee from Autumn 2024 and are willing to take on key roles.**

Option 2 – Slimline Committee and Shrink Role

The committee continues but with governance changes. The charter is re-written to allow for less than four trustees, with a Chair and Treasurer as a minimum. The details of event management going forward would be discussed and agreed with the School Development Office as well as decisions on how funds are managed. The details of this option would depend on how many key roles can be maintained. The GSPA could continue to manage second hand uniform as long as a committee member volunteers to manage this. The charity will still be required to register and report annual financial accounts to the Charity Commission. **This option is still only viable if volunteers are found to take on the role of Chair and Treasurer as a minimum.**

Option 3 – GSPA Dissolves

The GSPA committee is dissolved and resigns from the Charity Commission, effectively removing any statutory requirement to register and report annual accounting information to the Charity Commission. The GSPA bank account would be closed and all funds transferred to the Gordons Foundation. GSPA event management is transferred to the School Development Office and any profit amounts would supplement the Foundation income streams.

ACTION REQUESTED

From Tuesday 2nd July to Monday 30th September 2024 parents are invited to take part in a consultation exercise with the GSPA. This is an opportunity to make comments and suggestions or raise queries regarding the proposals. If you would like to support options 1 or 2 please indicate whether you are interested in volunteering. All communication should be in writing, addressed to the Chair of the GSPA at chair@gspa.uk

DECISION TIMELINE

Activity	Date (s)	Comments / other information
Consultation document agreed by GSPA committee following draft input from School	Saturday 22 nd June 2024	Document will be shared with those unable to attend.
Consultation sent to parents via Bromcom	Tuesday Comms 2 nd July 2024	Parents invited to comment to the GSPA committee for consideration and response.
End of consultation process	Monday 30 th September 2024	GSPA to consider all comments on the proposals
Vote at GSPA AGM	Saturday 12 th October 2024	GSPA committee to discuss and make a decision on which

		option to proceed or consider an alternative route.
GSPA to respond to any comments received	Friday 1 st November 2024	Results of decision at AGM to be shared.