

Friends of Gillespie Foundation

A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

Introducing the Friends of Gillespie (FoG) Foundation

Dear Gillespie Parents and Carers,

You may have recently heard about the launch of the The Friends of Gillespie (FoG) Foundation, a new group working as part of the wider Friends of Gillespie (FoG) charity.

While the fantastic FoG Events Committee will continue to focus on bringing our community together through fun and inclusive events, the FoG Foundation has a different yet complementary purpose: **raise money to help the school provide outstanding provision & projects for our children and give all our students the best possible experience!**

What is the FoG Foundation?

- The idea for the Foundation came directly from parents who wanted a simple, structured way to make regular financial contributions to the school.
- Its focus is primarily financial, aiming to raise larger amounts of money through direct donations, grants, and partnerships with local businesses.

Why is this needed?

As you may know, state schools in England are facing their worst decline in funding since 2010. Government funding has been declining for years, and while the school is diligent in managing its tight budget, there is only so much cutting that can be done before our children's school experience is affected.

We want to protect what makes our school special, and this Foundation allows our community to provide that support.

An Early Success Story!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of parents who donated just before summer 2025, the Foundation has **already funded a new Teaching Assistant for the school**. This additional presence will have a significant impact on improving pupil behaviour and engagement in the classroom and improving academic progress, as outlined in the Department for Education research report (2024) into the use of TA's in schools.

Our Goals for 2025-2026

This school year, our ambitions are even bigger. The Foundation aims to raise funds for:

- Two additional Teaching Assistants
- An Artist in Residence (1 day a week) to work on termly art projects with classes
- A Modern Foreign Languages in Residence (1 day a week)
- Digital technology to upgrade interactive Whiteboards and purchase more iPads

How Can You Help?

Donate:

The most direct way is to give what you can. It will take you to our donation page, where you can make a one-off donation or, even better, set up a regular direct debit, which provides the stable, long-term support the school can plan around.

Donate Now

Connect Us:

Do you know a local business that might partner with us or sponsor a project? Email us at fogfoundation@gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Check for Match-Funding:

Many employers offer a match-funding scheme, which means they'll double your donation. It's a powerful way to supercharge your support without costing you an extra penny. Please, ask your HR department!

Join the Team

To achieve these goals, we are currently looking for parents and carers who can share their time and skills to help strengthen the Foundation's work.

We would love to have you involved, whether your experience is in:

- Fundraising
- Communications
- Project management
- Design
- Grant applications or sponsorship
- Or any other area you think could be useful!

This is a fantastic opportunity to make a direct and lasting difference to our children's experience at Gillespie.

If you can spare some time and want to get involved, please sign up!

Sign Up to Get Involved

Thank you for your support!

The Friends of Gillespie (FoG) Foundation Team

fogfoundation@gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Learn More About the Foundation