



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

**Charity name: Sponsor A Gambian Teacher (SAGT)**

**Charity registration number: 1191072**

### **Objectives**

In its constitution, the object of SAGT as a charity is:

“The advancement of education for the public benefit in the Gambia, by providing grant funding to support the training of adults to become teachers, and to support teachers.”

Our main activities to achieve this are:

1. To work with Headteachers in the Early Childhood Development Association (ECDA), West Coast Region of The Gambia, to identify adults who are suitable to train as teachers, and who would not otherwise be able to finance their own training.
2. To pay the teachers' fees for teacher training courses provided by the University of The Gambia School of Education, also known as the Gambia college.
3. To give teachers a monthly living allowance (stipend) during their training.
4. To monitor the progress of teachers via the ECDA.
5. To receive donations from sponsors to enable us to carry out these activities.

The trustees believe that the public benefits of SAGT, in line with Charity Commission Guidance, are:

1. To enable adults to train as teachers, who would not otherwise be able to finance their own training.
2. To enable schools to increase the number of qualified teachers working there.
3. To improve the quality of education available, which then benefits children, families and communities more widely.

## **Partnership with the ECDA**

SAGT works in close partnership with the ECDA Committee.

The charity could not operate in the way that it does, without this partnership.

Leading Headteachers in the ECDA take on key tasks which must take place in The Gambia for SAGT to be effective. This also includes meeting with the university staff to discuss developments affecting teachers sponsored by SAGT.

The partnership between SAGT trustees and the ECDA ensures that decision making about the best way to support schools and teachers is taken in The Gambia, by local people with the right knowledge and experience. SAGT aims to empower school leaders in The Gambia to take decisions and support schools and student teachers in the best way possible.

## **Activities**

All sponsored teachers must meet the entrance qualifications of the University, and also go through a selection process undertaken by the ECDA, to ensure that they meet the objectives of SAGT.

In all cases, teachers work within a school during their training, and attend University part time or in the school holidays. The children, the school and the wider community therefore benefits from the work of the teacher throughout their training.

The ECDA maintains contact with the schools and teachers throughout their training. One important contact is the monthly meeting when teachers are given their allowance (also called a stipend) and sign for it.

ECDA leaders and SAGT trustees keep in contact and information is shared about the progress of teachers, the available funding, and planning for the next cohort of teachers.

SAGT trustees monitor the budget and transfer money to the ECDA account three times a year.

All payments to teachers and the college are administered by the ECDA and records are given to SAGT trustees.

## **Achievements and Performance**

At the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, SAGT was sponsoring 24 teachers. Of these:

- 8 teachers are studying for the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Certificate / Diploma;
- 7 teacher is studying for the ECD Advanced Diploma;
- 1 teacher is studying for the Primary Teachers (PTC) Certificate / Diploma;
- 5 teachers are studying for the PTC Advanced Diploma;
- 1 teacher is studying for a Higher Teaching Certificate (HTC);
- 2 teachers are studying for the HTC Advanced Diploma Teaching Certificate (Primary);
- 20 are women and 4 are men.

The sponsored teachers work in around 20 different schools, with each school taking children from one or more villages, so the impact of our small charity can be quite significant.

Some teachers need three years of sponsorship, some two years and others only ask for sponsorship for their final year. There are a range of reasons why teachers might need only one or two years of sponsorship. They may have started the course by funding it themselves or being financed by a relative. The death of a parent or other family member, or a change in family circumstances might mean that they would be unable to complete their qualification without our support.

SAGT also ensures that at least 50% of its sponsored teachers are women, and the figure is usually much higher. This contributes to “Educating the Girl Child” – a campaign in The Gambia to promote sending girls to school. Training women teachers, and providing education for girl children, is seen as one of the best ways to reduce child marriage in The Gambia.

We expect to sponsor around 10 new teachers each year, selected by the ECDA, in addition to those we are already committed to sponsoring to complete their training. A number of teachers we sponsored to achieve basic teaching qualifications, have later been supported to achieve more advanced qualifications. This has meant that around 130 individuals have been supported by SAGT in total, since it started in 2012.

Students are now accepted onto courses at different times of the year according to the course they are on, rather than in the standard academic year. This can be complex to track, and is being well-managed by the ECDA Committee. They maintain contact with the University and ensure that the varying timescales are met, selecting students at the appropriate times.

The trustees thank all sponsors for their very generous support, some over many years, to enable SAGT to make a massive difference to the lives of teachers, children, schools and the communities they serve. We know that the chance for young people to train and qualify as teachers is truly life-changing. The children they teach are often the first generation in their family to go to school. Every person and every school has a story to tell.

## Financial Review

During the financial year 2023-2024, SAGT spent a total of £9,710, all on charitable activities to enable teachers to be trained. This breaks down as:

Monthly living allowance (stipend) for all teachers in training	5,770	60%
College fees paid for all sponsored students	3,640	37%
ECDA - to reimburse travel and other expenses incurred in visiting students	300	3%
TOTAL	9710	100%

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In 2023-24 SAGT received donations amounting to £7,475  
 We brought forward £19,623 from the previous financial year, 2022-2023  
 We carried forward £17,387 to the next financial year, 2024-25.  
 A Statement of Financial Activities is available summarising this.

SAGT's donations come mainly from individuals who know about the charity and are committed to supporting teachers in The Gambia. General fund-raising activities are rarely undertaken.

On the advice of the financial auditor, the trustees have agreed a Reserves Policy.

This is:

- to maintain a balance in the account that would enable SAGT to complete its existing commitments to teachers who have started training;
- to retain a small reserve for contingencies;
- to allocate reserves over and above that to train and support teachers;
- to review this policy annually.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

SAGT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) whose only voting members are its charity trustees. It has a constitution based on the Foundation model constitution provided by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

There is a Partnership Agreement between the ECDA and SAGT setting out key tasks undertaken by each.

SAGT is also a member of Hub Cymru Africa, which supports charities working across Africa and Wales. With their advice SAGT has adopted a Code of Conduct, and a Safeguarding Policy.

## **Reference and Administrative details**

Sponsor A Gambian Teacher (SAGT) operates from:

Fron Grove  
 Bodfari  
 Denbighshire  
 Wales  
 LL16 4DE      Tel: 07944 075569

[info@sponsoragambianteacher.org](mailto:info@sponsoragambianteacher.org)

[www.sponsoragambianteacher.org](http://www.sponsoragambianteacher.org)

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Date appointed	Term of appointment
1	Nigel Hamshire	Chair	01/05/22	4 years
2	Susan Lewis	Secretary	September 2023	4 years
3	Stephen Lewis	Founder	August 2020	4 years
4	Peter Lewis		October 2021	4 years
5	David Lewis		October 2021	4 years

### Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)  

Full name(s) 

Nigel Hamshire	Susan Lewis
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Position 

Chair	Secretary
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Date 

7/1/25
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Sponsor a Gambian Teacher – SAGT		Charity No (if any)	1191072
Annual accounts for the period			
Period start date	01.04.2023	To	Period end date 31.03.2024

## Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
		£ F01	£ F02	£ F03	£ F04	£ F05
<b>Incoming resources (Note 3)</b>						
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	S01	7,475	-	-	7,475	19,623
Charitable activities	S02	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	S03	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	S04	-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income	S05	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S06	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	S07	7,475	-	-	7,475	19,623
<b>Resources expended (Note 6)</b>						
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	S08	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	S09	9,710	-	-	9,710	-
Separate material item of expense	S10	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S11	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	S12	9,710	-	-	9,710	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)</b>						
	S13	- 2,235	-	-	- 2,235	19,623
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S14	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	S15	- 2,235	-	-	- 2,235	19,623
<b>Extraordinary items</b>	S16	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	S17	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	S20	- 2,235	-	-	- 2,235	19,623
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward	S21	-	-	-	-	19,623
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	S22	- 2,235	-	-	- 2,235	17,388

## Section B

## Balance sheet

Guidance Notes

### Fixed assets

Intangible assets	(Note 15)
Tangible assets	(Note 14)
Heritage assets	(Note 16)
Investments	(Note 17)
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	

	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total this year £ F04	Total last year £ F05
B01	-	-	-	-	-
B02	-	-	-	-	-
B03	-	-	-	-	-
B04	-	-	-	-	-
B05	-	-	-	-	-

### Current assets

Stocks	(Note 18)
Debtors	(Note 19)
Investments	(Note 17.4)
Cash at bank and in hand	(Note 24)
<b>Total current assets</b>	

B06	-	-	-	-	-
B07	-	-	-	-	-
B08	-	-	-	-	-
B09	17,388	-	-	17,388	19,623
B10	17,388	-	-	17,388	19,623

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 20)

B11	-	-	-	-	-
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**Net current assets/(liabilities)**

B12	17,388	-	-	17,388	19,623
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**Total assets less current liabilities**

B13	17,388	-	-	17,388	19,623
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Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 20)

B14	-	-	-	-	-
B15	-	-	-	-	-

Provisions for liabilities

**Total net assets or liabilities**

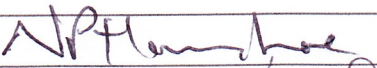
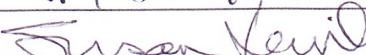
B16	17,388	-	-	17,388	19,623
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### Funds of the Charity

Endowment funds	(Note 27)
Restricted income funds	(Note 27)
Unrestricted funds	
Revaluation reserve	
<b>Total funds</b>	

B17	-			-	-
B18		-		-	-
B19			-	-	-
B20				-	
B21	-	-	-	17,388	19,623

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
	NP HAMSHERE	7/1/25
	SUSAN LEWIS	7-1-25