



Build a School in Gambia (BASIG)

DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT Y/E APRIL 2020

The Trustees of the BASIG charity present their annual report and audited accounts for the year ended April 30 2020 and confirm they comply with the Charities Act 1993 as amended by the Charities Act 2006 the trust deed and Charities SORP 2005.

BASIG Operates in accordance with a Constitution approved by the Charity Commission which was approved on 28 March 2012 with a registration 1146651 objectives as follows;

To advance education in The Gambia, with a view to relieving and preventing poverty but not exclusively by: a) Building and running a school in the village of Sukuta in The Gambia so impoverished children in the area can be given an opportunity to receive free schooling they may otherwise not have had. b) Supporting education for children in the same village with the intention of paying special attention to those who have progressed through the above mentioned school.

We seek to provide a structured educational environment that develops our pupils' capabilities, competences and skills. We promote the academic, moral and physical development of our pupils through our academic curriculum, pastoral care, motessori, frobel and other activities. We provide an educational environment where each child can develop and fulfill his or her potential, building their self-confidence and inculcating a desire to contribute to the wider community. In so doing, we prepare our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of later life.

OUR OBJECTIVES

Our objectives are set to reflect our educational aims and the ethos of the School. It is important that we maintain and enhance the academic success of the School. This objective is set in the context of the broader goals we set for the School and its pupils.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees and members have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education.

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Our key objectives for the year included:

Continue to broaden our academic curriculum and enhance and improve the co-curricular provision for pupils as follows;

To continue to develop the first class pastoral care we provide for nursery pupils;

To develop a partnership with The Gambian Ministry of education through which means we can now provide continued education through primary school of all Sukuta graduates. BASIG have managed to secure this arrangement by means of donation to Sanchaba Primary school so they can upgrade classrooms, thereafter the MOE have agreed all future Sukuta graduates will have the same opportunity of free schooling through to Secondary level at Sanchaba, formal agreement has now been signed.

The above collaboration will allowed BASIG to terminate the rather costly education we were paying for at ABBA school allowing savings that could eventually fund secondary education for former Sukuta pupils graduating through Sanchaba. This process was completed during July this year with all ex and existing ABBA pupils now being transferred successfully to Sanchaba primary school.

BASIG intend to maintain pupil numbers at Sukuta approx 80 through continued fund raising in the UK;

To provide continuing support of our pupils already in receipt of free schooling;

To develop our existing teachers through continued training programs at College.

Most of BASIG objectives for year 19/20 were achieved the exception being our biggest fundraiser event the annual Golf Day which was cancelled. Even with the of lack of income due to Covid the financial status of BASIG remains stable, it is hoped to hold another golf day this year but currently on hold until 17 September and to be reviewed 15/16 May.

OUR ETHOS, STRATEGY AND POLICIES

The Trustees are responsible for setting a strategy for achieving the objectives they have set. The focus of our strategy is on the development of our pupils, their continued high levels of academic and co-curricular achievement and to further widen access to the education our Nursery School and Sanchaba the agreement at ABBA now terminated. In taking forward our strategy we review and benchmark the School's academic syllabus, teaching practices and examination results and ensure the range of co-curricular activities available to our pupils is both stimulating and challenging. We continue invest in equipment and the infrastructure of our School and co-operate and share resources with other schools in the area. We continue to review and develop to ensure wider access to pupils from all backgrounds. Of particular note this year – due to our dis-continued collaboration with ABBA Bi-Lingual, a partnership agreement with Sanchaba was reached to help finance refurbishment of 2 classrooms, in return Sukuta graduates would receive free of charge schooling whilst at primary level. On going a review would take place each year whereby level of donation to Sanchaba would be discussed and agreed by the board of members and trustees, this was deemed to be far more cost effective than the previous ABBA agreement.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY (Field Trips)

As part of the teaching methods used where children are encouraged to learn through participation, various field trips continue to be arranged throughout the year. This years big event was a trip to the local nature reserve and was hugely successful with almost all the children being able to participate.

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FUTURE PLANS

The Trustees intend to continue their current strategies of maintaining the School's free of charge policy by investing charitable donations to ensure a high standard of education is provided. A newly appointed head teacher Modou Bah and teachers will continue to review the curriculum ensuring that it fits in with local guidelines and remains appropriate for purpose.

In particular the Trustees are pleased to confirm that the financial strength of the charity remains solid and will cover running costs of the Nursery School in Sukuta along with continued primary schooling at Sanchaba for the foreseeable future. It is anticipated due to savings made by moving all former Sukuta pupils from ABBA to Sanchaba that eventually funds could be sufficient to enable secondary schooling for all BASIG pupils.

The Trustees are continuing their strategy of deploying all net incoming resources to investing in the educational purposes and fabric of the nursery school, they have developed a program of further education and continue to grow the relationship with Sanchaba primary school. In 2019 graduating pupils continued to be sponsored by the charity to progress through the BASIG funded ABBA partnership, this partnership will cease in July 2020 when the new arrangement with Sanchaba started.

Prior to the ABBA partnership previous graduating pupils would have funded their own primary education with a high percentage dropping out due to lack of funds, as a result of projected annual funds now available to BASIG it is expected all graduating pupils will now be sponsored through primary school. Primary school education extends through 6 years of schooling and having seen a fourth year graduate from Sukuta BASIG are now supporting 93 children through primary school.

Future plans over the coming years could involve helping to assist other schools in the area around Sukuta with refurbishment plans and equipment supply.

Ms Marie Sambou one of our most experienced teachers will retire in July 2020 at which time the board of trustees set out to find her replacement, a possible candidate Sainey Sonko a current assistant is likely to be her appointed replacement. Mr Drammeh former SOS Schools Headmaster remains as advisor to BASIG and Modou Bah our headmaster..

CHARITY TRUSTEES and OFFICERS

The BASIG charity requires breadth and depth of experience to carry out its duties effectively and efficiently. When recruiting new trustees the important attribute is a passion for the work of our School and an understanding of education as a holistic and rounded experience of personal growth. We advertise in social media and within the charity for new trustees and members. We also invite senior local business people to consider joining as trustees. Where possible the trustees consider that the skills and experience of the charity should comprise a high level of business acumen or accounting ability or have school management experience. All trustees and officers have served throughout the year and the appointments current at year end 2020 remain the same as at year end April 2019.

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Trustees	Alan Seager	Martin Englefield	Helen Fenton
Chairman	Alan Seager		
Co-Treasurers	David Foster	Simon Foster	
Secretary	Alan Seager		

This report was approved and signed by the trustees as follows;

Signed Alan Seager Date

Signed Martin Englefield Date.....

Signed Helen Fenton Date