

Abingdon School Parents' Association

Constitution

1 Introduction

Abingdon School Parents' Association was formerly known as The Abingdon School Society (TASS). TASS was established in 1968 as part of Abingdon School's response to a perceived political threat – an assault on the Direct Grant scheme of which the School had been a member since 1947.

The underlying motivation of those who founded the Society was a desire to further what they saw as the School's historic mission, namely to supply a sophisticated form of education without regard to pupils' ability to pay for it.

The battle for Direct Grant was lost, at national level, and in the years that followed, TASS devoted itself to the practicalities of supporting Abingdon School, and its traditional clientele, both by fundraising and by other means. The Society was in the forefront of successive school development appeals, and took an active part in creating scholarship and bursary schemes; assistance was also supplied at many school events and occasions such as parents' evenings and careers seminars.

In each of the successive stages of its growth TASS was concerned to promote excellence in education, equality of opportunity, and support for the principle of independent schooling. In doing so, it encouraged social contacts within the parent body and the School community, and promoted ideals of fellowship as well as of charitable giving.

Since the creation in 2007 of the Development Office, a formal and structured approach was taken to the School's fund raising initiatives. This enabled the Society to focus less on securing funds and more on fostering relationships among parents and the School community, whilst retaining the basic principles of its foundation. To mark this change in emphasis the Society was renamed.

2 Name

Following consultation with parents in January and February 2009 The Abingdon School Society was renamed Abingdon School Parents' Association (ASPA).

3 Objectives

The objectives of ASPA are to:

- Foster the support and goodwill towards the school and its traditions of governors, staff, parents, old boys and friends;
- Promote social and networking activities for parents throughout the School, including at House and year group level;

To implement these objectives ASPA will be empowered to take any action which does not affect the administration or the discipline of the School.

4 Membership

Membership will be open to governors, staff, parents, guardians as well as old boys and friends of Abingdon and Abingdon Preparatory School.

The Committee will have the power to confer honorary membership in recognition of services to the School.

5 Management

Officers of Abingdon School Parents' Association comprise:

- A Chair person or Co Chairs
- Vice Chair (not needed when Co-Chairs in operation)
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Communication

They will hold office for one year only, but can be re-elected for additional years. All officers will be elected by the Committee. All officers are official signatories on behalf of ASPA.

Where possible the Committee will be composed of:

- The officers,
- Up to two staff representatives,
- Current parents/ guardians acting as Year Reps

The Head, Registrar and Director of Development & Alumni Relations will be ex-officio members of the Committee.

The Committee should ideally include a minimum of one parent/guardian from each year group.

The Committee will have power to set up such sub-committees as it may think fit.

The Committee will meet at least once a term and will be deemed to be quorate with two officers and three others, of which two should be parents/guardians.

6 Subscription

Subscription is included in the fees of current parents of Abingdon School.

ASPA Committee or Sub Committee members who are part of an event organising committee will be given free access to the event that they are actively involved in organising. Where a sub committee has been formed to support the organisation of an event, this sub committee will be limited to 4 people. If there is concern that Committee or Sub Committee members have not been actively involved in the organisation of an event to warrant free entry, the final decision will rest with the Chair.

7 Accounts

The accounts are included in the school's annual audit and all accounts are handled by the Accounts Manager/Director of Finance and Operations. ASPA has three signatories (Chair /Co Chairs or Vice Chair and Treasurer) and the Bursar and Accounts Manager are also authorised signatories. This ensures that ASPA retains control over its balances.

8 Annual General Meeting

The Secretary shall be responsible for calling the Annual General Meeting giving at least fourteen days' notice. The Annual General Meeting shall normally be held during the Lent Term.

9 Extraordinary General Meeting

Extraordinary General Meetings shall be held provided that a minimum of 25 members wish to call one. Their request, giving the purpose, shall be put in writing to the Secretary who must then call the meeting giving at least fourteen days' notice.

10 Activities

To achieve ASPA's Objectives, activities could include the following items. The list is not exhaustive and may be expanded and amended according to circumstances:

- Co-ordinating and liaising with parents to strengthen social networking among parents, in particular through House contact lists for those with sons in the same year group.
- Providing a combined second-hand uniform shop (SUS).

- Awarding travel grants to sixth form pupils, both for GAP Year and lower sixth, to assist them in worthwhile projects.
- Supporting the fundraising activities of the Development and Alumni office, where appropriate.
- Co-ordinating and liaising with other groups within the School community who are interested in advancing the objectives of ASPA.
- Supporting the School at key events.