

Be a force for good!

Get involved in school life and help make your child's school brilliant! By taking part, you'll have a positive influence on your child's education, because when children see their parents involved in their school and learning, it encourages them to do their best.

START SCHOOL TOGETHER

You're in luck! Your child's school has an active PTA (they could be known as the PTFA, friends group or another name) and they're waiting to welcome you on board.

As you might expect, fundraising is a priority for most PTAs, but they do a lot more than you might imagine: running events and socials, holding pre-loved uniform sales, helping improve communication between parents and your school, or linking the school to the wider community (among other things!)

To find out what your PTA gets up to and how you can be involved, talk to a committee member or go along to the next meeting – everyone's welcome!

PTA SUCCESS!

PTAs make a valuable contribution to the schools they support – last year Parentkind member PTAs raised a whopping £108 million!

“I love helping and organising events; seeing all the children's faces and knowing that we are helping the school and the children.”

Kate, PTA Treasurer

Be a fundraiser

Whether you do it to create an outdoor classroom, stock the library with new books, or buy new technology - if you're interested in fundraising your PTA needs you!

Funds raised from PTA activities make such a difference to your school and the opportunities and experiences available to your child. And as a member of the PTA, you have a say on how those funds are spent.

Events will always be at the heart of PTA fundraising, because as well as making money, they bring families together and play an important role in building the school community. But if they're not your thing, or don't fit in around your family life, ask your PTA about non-event fundraising, like easyfundraising or Amazon Smile, where parents raise money for the PTA when they shop online.

SUCCESS STORY!

Friends of Heathbrook helped raise £130k for an all-weather astro turf pitch that benefits the whole community. Read their story at parentkind.org.uk/heathbrook

BE A HELPER

Any offer of help is welcomed in schools, so if you want to volunteer, just ask. Parents often help out in class, by listening to children read, going on school trips, or running sports or creative activities. If helping with the kids isn't for you, or you're not able to offer your time regularly, ask if there's a one-off project you could get involved with, like building a vegetable garden or outdoor learning area.

“For me it's about being part of a community and teaching my daughter how rewarding that can be.”

Caron, PTA volunteer

Be vocal

If you're keen to have a say on school matters, like uniform or homework policy, behaviour or wrap-around care; find out whether there's a parent voice group at your child's school.

Some PTAs act as a consultative group for school leaders and governors, but parent voice can also be heard in a Parent Council, or other type of parent forum.

A Parent Council is a forum where parents meet, share ideas and feedback to the head teacher or governors. Membership should reflect the entire school community and give a voice to all parents. A well-run group helps develop the partnership between parents and schools, as parents views are included in school decision-making.

SUCCESS STORY!

Having faced a challenging few years, St Nicholas CE Primary Academy set up a Parent Council to create a vital link between home and school. Read why it's been so beneficial at parentkind.org.uk/St-Nicholas

BE AN INFLUENCER

If you're looking for deeper involvement, being a school governor or trustee is a challenging but rewarding opportunity that benefits you, your child and the school. As The National Governance Association put it “Governors play a vital role in shaping the education of young people by helping to set the ethos, vision and strategy for schools.”

READ MORE...

Read more about being a governor at parentkind.org.uk/parent-governors

Be a force for good!

Because it's not always possible to take part in activities within the school gates, or be active on the PTA or Parent Council, there are other ways to participate and share your views. Look out for surveys being sent home by the school and if you're in England, complete Ofsted's Parent View online, so your opinions are taken into account during inspections.

If you want to help shape education matters at national level, sign up for the Parentkind Parent eBulletin and we'll keep you updated with the latest news and consultations, or join our new Parent Insight Panel to be sent regular surveys.

SIGN UP!

Visit parentkind.org.uk/BeSchoolReady to sign up for the Parent eBulletin or join the Parent Insight Panel

“Work can make it hard to be part of school life. Being a PTA dad allows me to show that daddy cares and is involved with their school. I can see how proud they are.”

Scott, PTA dad at St John's CofE Academy, Coleford

