
How to power-up your child's school with its first PTA

Want to make a difference to your child's school?

Starting a PTA will benefit not only your child's school environment and life but all children at that school.

We break down what exactly a PTA is, why they are so important to school life and the steps you need to take to get yours off the ground.

What even is a PTA and why does your child's school need one?

A PTA is a group of volunteer parents and teachers who work together to enhance the education of children and young people by providing resources and improving the school environment. They raise extra funds for their school through a wide range of fun and creative initiatives, events, and much, much more.

Regardless of the educational stage or type of school, all schools can benefit from the introduction of a PTA.



Last year, the top five areas their fundraising contributed to were: **Leavers' events, educational materials, outdoor learning areas, playground equipment and IT equipment.**

In the last four years PTAs have raised **£369 million** for their schools

A PTA's fundraising can have a big impact on a school, contributing towards activities, equipment or initiatives that the school's budget just doesn't stretch to, but their remit doesn't stop there! PTAs are instrumental in helping to bring their school and local community together too.

"I was excited to see how we could reach out to other parents, improve communications and build a stronger sense of community across the diverse parent body for all seven year groups."

Eve Daniels, Chair of the John Roan School Association

Is your child's school missing out?

Only **59%** of schools have a PTA

We estimate that only 59% of schools have a PTA.

Only those 59% will have benefitted from the additional £369 million of funds raised by their PTAs over the last four years, and the countless events and activities that PTAs have coordinated for their schools, to bring together the greater school and local community.

Not sure if your child's school has a PTA? Check with the school office to see if the school has one set up already. If they do and you're interested in getting involved then the good news is you're already automatically a member and PTAs are always looking for additional support. If there isn't a PTA then read on to see how you can get one started.

Parents coming together has a powerful effect

Three parents with children at Hewett Academy in Norwich formed a PTA and raised an incredible £150,000 through grant fundraising for their school, in their first year of operation. Some of the funds went towards school renovations as well as free hot meals for children attending homework club.

What could your child's school benefit from if they were to have a PTA?

TOP TIP!

Having an informal chat with the school to understand what their needs may be, is a great place to start when considering creating a PTA.

How to **kickstart** your PTA

First things first, we recommend you share this toolkit with some other parents you know at your child's school and see if they'd be interested in helping you start or revitalise your school's PTA.

Next up, follow our eight step guide to getting your PTA association set up in no time.



1

Have a chat with your school

PTAs are most successful when they work in partnership with the school. Alongside the other parents you have approached, arrange to speak to someone in the school about setting up a PTA. This could be the Head, member of the leadership team or a teacher – someone to talk through your objectives with.

2

Call a meeting to gauge more parent interest in forming a PTA

Once you've got the school on-board and a core group of parents who can push the project of starting a PTA forward, call a slightly more formal meeting to find out how many more parents would be interested in getting involved.

3

Launch your PTA with your first Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Once you've got the support of the school and other parents, it's time to call an AGM to formally set up your new PTA and its committee.

4

Set your constitution

It may sound a bit formal but a constitution will help your PTA to run as smoothly as possible by setting out rules that your association agrees to follow.

TOP TIP!

We recommend setting your constitution at your first AGM. [Click Here to Join our 12,500 PTAs in membership](#) and you'll be able to adopt our Model Constitution which is approved by the Charity Commission.



5

Introduce yourselves and generate support

Now it's time to let the rest of your school community know that you have set up a PTA, how they can support/get involved and how to reach the committee. Create a PTA email address so that all of your members know how to reach you. If you've set a date for your first open PTA meeting, use this as an opportunity to invite them. Face-to-face conversations, social media, school newsletters and the school website are all great ways of engaging with the rest of your school community. Try out different ways of communicating and you'll soon learn what works best for your school.

6

Start fundraising

As a new PTA you probably won't have any money, so how do you get going? Talk to the school to see if they could lend you some money to get started, or hold an event that doesn't involve any initial outlay. A good old-fashioned cake sale, coffee morning or own clothes day could be the way to start. All are easy to organise and very popular.

7

Keep communicating what you're doing

Everyone in the school needs to feel that the PTA belongs to them, and they belong to the PTA. Let everyone know when meetings are being held, provide regular updates on events, projects and opportunities to volunteer, and tell people how funds are being used, it keeps supporters motivated and interested.

8

Get to grips with the legal stuff

As well as your constitution, there are a number of areas your new committee should discuss early on, such as safeguarding, insurance, licences, health and safety, and, a bit further down the line, charity registration.



Visit parentkind.org.uk/Start-A-PTA for more information.

Call our PTA Advisers on **0300 123 5460** or email info@parentkind.org.uk to see how we can support your PTA.

Parentkind

BRINGING TOGETHER HOME & SCHOOL

Parentkind is the network of PTA fundraisers in the UK. We bring specialist fundraising support and advice to parent volunteers so that every school can benefit from a successful PTA. Our 12,500 PTA members raise over £120+ million per year, placing us alongside some of the largest charities in the UK.