

What is a Parent Teacher & Friend's Association (PTFA)?

Most schools have a Parent Teacher and Friend's Association (PTFA), which is an organisation of parents, staff and friends of the school (local community members or past parents of the school). Its role is to encourage closer links between home and school. PTFA's are best known for their fundraising work, but they have a useful social function too. Fundraising and social events provide an opportunity for parents, staff and pupils to get together and build a community.

How is the PTA organised?

All parents/carers and teachers are automatically members of Harwood Meadows Primary School PTFA.

The PTFA holds an annual general meeting, generally at the end of the school year. At this meeting a committee is elected to run the PTFA – usually consisting of a chair, a vice-chair, a treasurer, and a secretary, along with ordinary committee members, made up of parents, staff and governors alike.

PTFA committees usually meet once a term to organise individual events, discuss the finances and how this money is to be spent. We also look to how involve new members and how to enable all members of the PTFA to contribute.

Our aim going forward is to have Class Representatives which include at least one, often two parents from each class, their job is to pass on information from the PTFA Committee Members to other parents in their child's class and vice versa. By having this Class Representative system, this will enable us to have sub committees of smaller working groups made up of class reps and parents, these sub-committees are set up to help with the organisation of larger events that occur throughout the year. e.g., Christmas Fair, Summer Fair etc.

How is money raised?

Harwood Meadow's PTFA money this last year has been raised through events – for example, a Christmas fair in the winter, a ladies' night in the autumn, a summer fair, school disco's etc. We are looking to do more PTFA events in the future, and are always looking for new fundraising ideas, maybe you can help with this!!

How is money spent?

Funds raised by the PTFA are intended to provide 'extras', not already provided by the school's main income – often 'fun things' that make learning more interesting and exciting.

The PTFA committee and the head teacher decide how to spend PTFA funds. Common items include playground equipment, musical systems, and smaller purchases such as presents for Father Christmas to distribute and Easter eggs.

How can I be involved in my PTFA?

There are many different ways you can help with the PTFA, whether you have lots of time to offer or not.

Some of the roles are time-consuming, although also rewarding. If you can't commit to a big job, look out for things you can do less frequently (e.g. running a stall at the summer fair, baking for a cake sale). And you can always support PTFA events by simply turning up.

If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions for the PTFA or would like to know how you can get involved please contact us at ptfa@harwood-meadows.bolton.sch.uk , via our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/HMCPSSCHOOL/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel or speak to Sarah Rogerson or any of the PTFA team directly.