

Parentkind

Bringing together home & school

Being an active PTA member

If there's a PTA (or PTFA, Friends Association or other parents' group) at your kids' school, you're automatically a member. PTAs are run by a committee of volunteers voted in by the members (that's you), and while they have responsibility for managing the association, the more members that take an active role, the better.

There are loads of reasons you might want to get involved, here are five good ones:

Feel at home at school

Joining the PTA makes it easy to get to know people at the school, from the headteacher and teachers, to other parents. If you're new to the school, you'll soon be walking in to the school playground or attending school events with confidence.

Have fun and get to know other parents

Events run by the PTA are fun. Whether it's a hectic and exhausting disco for the pupils, the meticulously run Summer Fair or a parents only quiz night, they are great for bringing the school together as a community. Teachers, parents and pupils alike get stuck in and enjoy themselves.

Understand how the school works

Being part of the PTA helps parents to understand how things in the school work. If the PTA is well supported by the teachers, you'll soon realise how much they value the supports it brings to the school.

Help the school be even better

Do you want your child's school to be brilliant? The experiences that the children have while at school include what's run (and paid for) by the PTA.

Be a good role model

There's a lot of evidence to suggest that when parents are engaged in a school, a child's attainment is improved. Being involved in school shows that you think it's important, could there be a more compelling reason to get involved?

It's not uncommon for parents to feel unsure about getting involved with the PTA, there's an assumption that you'll be expected to commit large chunks of time to the school, but that's not the case. Any help you can provide is very much appreciated, and in return you'll receive a huge sense of satisfaction and most likely a new group of friends.

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