

Welcome to Our Lady of the Wayside School Association

Why do we have a PTA?

We are fortunate at our school to have a School Association that's an integral part of the School and Parish community. Over the years we have raised thousands of pounds, which has been spent on equipment and resources to enhance our children's educational experience and the school's facilities.

Our association is about much more than simply fundraising. The School Association exists to provide closer links between home, school and the parish and it is an excellent way to bring staff, parents, friends and parishioners together socially in support of the school, working towards a common goal. It's fun too - just ask any of the Committee members or volunteers.

All parents and members of the school community are encouraged to get involved, even if they only have a small amount of time available.

Role of the Committee

Our Committee consists of

Chair – Tara Moriarty

Treasurer – Kerry Casey

Secretary – Dani Porter

Vice Chair – Kathryn Taylor

Vice Treasurer – Helen Jordan

And ordinary committee members. They can be contacted via email on olowsa@aol.com.

The Committee meet on a regular basis with smaller working groups meeting as necessary when we are planning larger events.

The Committee also hold open PTA meetings, any member can come along, find out what the association are planning, share ideas and get involved.

Volunteers

We welcome any help from parents, teachers and friends, and have a growing list of volunteers who commit some of their time to helping the association. Every little helps, so just one hour of assisting at event or wrapping lucky dip prizes or folding raffle tickets (just a few examples) would be invaluable. If you would like to join us please speak to a committee member, come along to our next meeting or email us – olowsa@aol.com.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is held in September and provides an excellent opportunity for all parents to come along and hear in more detail about our work, the events we have run, the

funds we have raised and how the money has been spent. It is also when we elect our new committee members.

Support from Parentkind

Our School Association is a member of Parentkind, which is a national charity and membership organisation providing support and guidance to over 13,500 parent associations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Membership includes comprehensive insurance cover by Zurich Insurance plc for all our association run events and gives access to support and advice on running the association plus fundraising ideas and good practice hints and tips

How we raise money

Like most PTAs, the majority of our funds are raised through the events that we run. Some of our most popular events are:

Christmas Fayre

Summer Fayre

Disco's

Christmas Boutique

Non-Uniform Days

Donations from parents are extremely important. You can donate time, money, items for sale, raffle prizes, or offers of services and skills.

How we spend the money we raise

The PTA committee are responsible for deciding how our PTA funds are spent. The School Leadership Team provide a Bid which details the items that the school would like us to consider funding.

We also invite input from parents too, so if you have an idea of something that would benefit all the students in the school, please do share it with the Committee. We can discuss it at a meeting and feedback.

Funds are typically spent on the 'extras' that are not provided by the school's budget, thus making our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting. Funds are not generally spent on improving the fabric of the school building, as this is the responsibility of the school. Our Constitution commits the association to spending money on things that will benefit the children directly.

Some of the items we have donated to the school are listed below;

Outdoor shed, tables and chairs for Reception Class.

Wet Play Games

Small world resources.

Catholic Social Teaching Signs/Catholic Virtues

How we keep you up to date

Our updates are included in the school's weekly newsletter and this includes information on upcoming events and dates plus as well as details of the help we are looking for at larger events. Following an event, we always write to let you know how much was raised, and when we reach our target, we tell you what the money will be spent on.

If you would like to join our School Association WhatsApp Group please let a committee member know