



Maharishi School

PARENT TEACHER AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Welcome to Our School

Parentkind
Member Association

Welcome to Maharishi School PTFA

This information has been put together by Maharishi School PTFA especially for you, as a new family joining our school community. Starting school is an exciting time for the whole family. Studies show that there's a direct link between parental involvement and how well children do, so why not get involved from the start! This booklet provides you with information about Maharishi School PTFA and lets you know how you can join in.

Why do we have a PTA?

We are fortunate at our school to have a Maharishi School PTFA that's an integral part of the school community. Over recent years significant amounts of money have been raised which has been spent on the education and provision of the children, with many updates to our playgrounds on both the primary and secondary sites and to purchase playtime equipment.

Our association is about much more than simply fundraising. Maharishi School PTFA exists to provide closer links between home and school and it is an excellent way to bring staff, parents and friends 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. All families are automatically members of the Maharishi School PTFA when their child joins our school.

'6 reasons why...' it's great to get involved

1. It's Totally flexible – any small ways to contribute are greatly appreciated
2. You'll feel more connected – have you say, offer support and get to be more familiar with parents and teachers.
3. You'll be part of a great network – meeting other people in the same situation as you!
4. Make a difference – By volunteering you'll be able to use whatever skills you have for a noble cause.
5. We're not just for mums – our PTFA love to have dads, grandparents and friends on our committee too.
6. Be a role model – getting involved illustrates good team work and community spirit.

Lastly!! Its FUN! – help plan fun events socials and get together for the whole family.

Role of the Committee

Our Committee consists of

Chair:	Lisa Smith	lisasmithptfa@gmail.com
Vice Chair:	Rachel Hobson	rachelhobsonptfa@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Keith Garrity	keithGarrityptfa@gmail.com
Secretary:	Jenny Garrity-Searle	jennysptfa@gmail.com

Ordinary Committee Members

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 – maharishischoolptfa@gmail.com There is also a reply slip at the back of this booklet you can complete and return to the committee or the school office.

Class Representatives

Our class reps play a very important role, providing a link between individual classes and parents, and the PTFA committee. The support from class reps is vital when it comes to organising our main events, from selling tickets to organising rotas of help. We really could not manage without them.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is held at the end of June 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 Maharishi School PTFA 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

Parentkind also provide resources for Parents, if you would like to sign up to their Parent e-Bulletin please visit <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/Signup>

How we raise money

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

Summer Fayres, bingo nights, and quiz nights.

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

How we spend the money we raise

The PTFA committee are responsible for deciding how our PTFA funds are spent. Usually the School Leadership Team provide a 'wish list' of 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.

we are looking to donate many more things to benefit the school including more improvements to the playgrounds on both the Primary and the Secondary sites.

How we keep you up to date

Our newsletter is sent home with the children or by email, 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.

We have a Maharishi School PTFA noticeboard situated at the main entrance at both sites where you'll find all our posters and news.

If you have access to Facebook, please join our group: **Maharishi School PTFA**

If you would like to join our **Maharishi PTFA** please let either committee or class representative know.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school!



I/We shall/shall like to be involved in the Parent, Teachers and Friends Association.

Signed

Print Name

Dated.....