

# Be a force for good!

Get involved in school life and help make your child's school brilliant! By taking part, you'll have a positive influence on your child's education, because when children of all ages see their parents involved in their school and learning, it encourages them to do their best.

## Be a force for good!

If you want to help shape education matters at national level, sign up for the Parentkind Parent eBulletin and we'll keep you updated with the latest news and consultations, or join our new Parent Insight Panel to be sent regular surveys.

And if there's an educational campaign you feel passionate about, but you're unsure what you could do about it, read our article about three inspirational parents successfully campaigning on a range of education issues: championing the removal of gender stereotyping, school funding and highlighting the misuse of school funds.

READ MORE...

Read the full story at [parentkind.org.uk/ParentPower](http://parentkind.org.uk/ParentPower)

## START SCHOOL TOGETHER

You're in luck! Your child's school has an active PTA (they could be known as the PTFA, friends group or have another name) and they're waiting to welcome you on board.

As you might expect, fundraising is a priority for most PTAs, but they do a lot more than you might imagine: running events and socials, pre-loved uniform sales, helping improve communication between parents and your school, or linking the school to the wider community (among other things!)

To find out what your PTA gets up to and how you can be involved, talk to a committee member or go along to the next meeting – everyone's welcome!

### PTA SUCCESS!

PTAs make a valuable contribution to the schools they support – last year Parentkind member PTAs raised a whopping £108 million!

“Secondary school PTAs are just as important as primary school... I'm glad that I can be part of one and do my bit.”

Dawn on Facebook

## Be a fundraiser

Whether you do it to create an outdoor classroom, stock the library with new books, or buy new technology - if you're interested in fundraising your PTA needs you!

Funds raised from PTA activities make such a difference to your school and the opportunities and experiences available to your child. And as a member of the PTA, you have a say on how those funds are spent.

Events will always be at the heart of PTA fundraising, because as well as making money, they bring families together and play an important role in building the school community. But if they're not your thing, or don't fit in around your family life, ask your PTA about non-event fundraising, like easyfundraising or Amazon Smile, where parents raise money for the PTA when they shop online.

### SUCCESS STORY!

Friends of Regent House raised £26,000 for a new minibus with a year of innovative fundraising. Read their story at [parentkind.org.uk/regent-house](http://parentkind.org.uk/regent-house)

## BE AN INFLUENCER

If you're looking for deeper involvement, being a school governor or trustee is a challenging but rewarding opportunity that benefits you, your child and the school. As The National Governance Association put it “Governors play a vital role in shaping the education of young people by helping to set the ethos, vision and strategy for schools.”

READ MORE...

Read more about being a governor at [parentkind.org.uk/parent-governors](http://parentkind.org.uk/parent-governors)

## BE A SUPPORTER

Opportunities to help out in secondary school may not be the same as they were at your child's primary school, but that doesn't mean there aren't plenty of ways you can support school activities. There might be a parent mentoring scheme you can get involved with, or perhaps you could talk about your job at a careers day or see if your employer (or you if you're self-employed) can offer work experience opportunities.

“My hubby and I help out with the PTA as the school give so much time to our son helping him learn... [we] get so much joy seeing the children so happy. It's all about the children.”

Melissa on Facebook



Sign up for the Parentkind eBulletin and find out more about joining our Parent Insight Panel at [parentkind.org.uk](http://parentkind.org.uk)

## BE VOCAL

If you're keen to have a say on school matters, like uniform or homework policy, behaviour or childcare; find out whether there's a parent voice group at your child's school.

Some PTAs act as a consultative group for school leaders and governors, but parent voice can also be heard in a Parent Council, or other type of parent forum.

A Parent Council is a forum where parents meet, share ideas and feedback to the head teacher or governors. Membership should reflect the entire school community and give a voice to all parents. A well-run group helps develop the partnership between parents and schools, as parents views are included in school decision-making.

### SUCCESS STORY!

Starting a Parent Voice Group helped transform Nunthorpe Academy as part of their journey to get the school from a 'satisfactory' Ofsted rating to 'outstanding'. Read their story at [parentkind.org.uk/nunthorpe](http://parentkind.org.uk/nunthorpe)