

## **Raising money through trusts and foundations**

IF YOUR school is trying to raise a large sum of money for a big project such as a playground redevelopment or a new building, your PTA might be able to help through its membership of the NCPTA. Members are given FREE access to [www.trustfunding.co.uk](http://www.trustfunding.co.uk) which would normally cost over £180 per annum. This valuable online database, managed by the Directory of Social Change, can be used to search over 4,200 grant-making trusts, with a total of over £3.1 billion a year to award. The NCPTA can also support your PTA to gain the charitable status which is usually required by grant-making trusts. Working with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, the NCPTA has developed an approved governing document which can be used to gain charitable status in as little as ten working days.

In 2008, the PTA of Kings Copse Primary school in Southampton won an NCPTA Gold Star Reward for fundraising achievement. As a newly formed association it quickly registered as a charity and was successfully awarded close to £80K, from a variety of trusts and grant-making organisations, to support a building replacement scheme, in its first year of operation.

## **Delivering Extended Services – a PTA can make a difference**

PTAs HAVE an important role to play in the delivery of extended services. Many PTAs routinely run breakfast and after-school clubs, helping their school to provide a varied menu of services and activities, within the scope of the extended services agenda.

A PTA can offer additional resources, understanding of parents' needs and how these can be fulfilled, help to overcome barriers to participation, innovation and additional funding. Your PTA may be an important asset in helping you to deliver a wide range of activities.

The PTA of Oakwood Avenue Community Primary School in Warrington helps run the school's Community Café. This provides a venue for daily breakfast clubs, a twice-weekly baby clinic leading to both parents and the local community becoming more involved with the school.

Trafalgar Schools in Twickenham is now able to offer a range of after school clubs with the support of its PTA. Not only is the PTA helping to organise and run the clubs it has agreed to allocate 10% of its annual income to subsidise places. This has ensured that all children have the opportunity to benefit with 170 now regularly participating.

## **NCPTA join in Day – Tuesday 9 June 2009**

TUESDAY 9 June 2009 is NCPTA *join in Day* – a national focus day specifically aimed at raising awareness of the invaluable contribution PTAs make to the education experience of many thousands of children. This gives your PTA the chance to boast about its achievements - the money it has raised, the equipment and projects it has funded, the events it has run and the difference it has made. It also gives your school an opportunity to thank and celebrate the hard work of PTA volunteers.

## 50p Fundraising Trail

TO HELP school communities around the country mark NCPTA *join in* Day, the NCPTA is once again giving PTAs the chance to run a simple, but effective fundraiser – the 50p Fundraising Trail. The idea is to collect as many 50p pieces as possible in advance of the event then ask pupils to come into school with their donations, so that a trail can be formed. It can be a simple line of 50p pieces or follow a pattern or template, such as the school logo or markings on the playground. The NCPTA is also making available a free fundraising pack full of useful resources.

We know that one of the best ways to get parents involved is through their children. Making your 50p trail a whole school activity is likely to be very advantageous leading to greater parent participation and fundraising success. The NCPTA has developed a range of primary curriculum materials which are included as part of our fundraising pack. Use these to build awareness and anticipation and to help link the PTA's activities with the day-to-day life of the school.

For more information and to download a fundraising pack visit [www.ncpta.org.uk](http://www.ncpta.org.uk) All schools are invited to *join in*. NCPTA membership is not a prerequisite.

## Help to keep the cost of schooling down for parents: second-hand uniform sales

IN FEBRUARY 2009, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) issued strengthened guidance for schools on keeping the costs of school down for parents. This was accompanied by new research which found the average annual cost incurred by parents of children at primary school is £638.79 and £1,195.47 for those with children at secondary school. Overall costs have risen 4% since the previous survey in 2003. This research also highlighted that whilst eight in ten parents are happy with the costs of school almost four in ten find it very or quite difficult to meet these costs.

The mandatory School Admissions Code places a statutory duty on all schools to ensure that admissions policies do not disadvantage children. This also states that governing bodies should ensure uniform is widely available rather than only being available from an expensive sole supplier. Governing bodies have been told that they should not seek to operate as sole suppliers of school uniform in order to raise additional funds.

Working with your PTA to offer parents second-hand uniform sales is an excellent way to keep costs down for parents. The DCSF's research highlighted this is something that at least a third of schools are currently not offering to parents. The NCPTA can provide help and advice having built up a range of case studies. These include examples where second-hand uniform is offered as part of an eco schools initiative to remove any stigma that might be attached to purchasing uniform second-hand. Other PTAs use their second-hand sales to make sure that any child who, for whatever reason, hasn't got a full school uniform can call on the second-hand uniform supply. Whilst many PTAs only charge to cover their costs it is possible within the guidance to raise funds through the sale of second-hand uniform. In some instances, this is shared with parents who have donated the uniform for sale and is another way to help with the costs of schooling.

## NCPTA membership

MEMBERSHIP of the NCPTA starts from just £60 a year and provides a wide range of benefits for members, including £10 million public liability insurance cover. PTAs should not be running events without adequate insurance cover in place as accidents do happen. For more information, including details of current promotions visit [www.ncpta.org.uk](http://www.ncpta.org.uk) or email [info@ncpta.org.uk](mailto:info@ncpta.org.uk)

This NCPTA information sheet aims to provide clear advice but should only be considered as a general guide.

Further information sheets are available from [www.ncpta.org.uk](http://www.ncpta.org.uk) For more specific advice please contact [info@ncpta.org.uk](mailto:info@ncpta.org.uk) or 01732 375460.

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