

PTFA Survey, 2017 – Response Summary (16 respondees)

1. Please take a look at the attached model PTFA constitution.
 - a. Do you think this constitution meets the needs of Eyam PTF? *All answered 'Yes'*
 - b. Do you have any additions / suggestions to make?
 - *Section 2 – suggestion of including widening children's charitable experiences/fundraising for others outside school. Initiate parent-led charitable activities outside of school.*
 - *Section 7 – currently all PTFA meetings are open meetings rather than committee meetings.*
 - *Section 8 – committee member needed on bonfire committee?*

2. In which areas do you think money raised by the PTFA should be spent? Select as many options as you would like, give a priority order (1 = most important) for any that you choose and feel free to give specific details in the comments section. *Only 6 responses awarded a priority (see comments below), spread fairly evenly across all areas (sports/music outings, whole school trips, equipment and technology coming out marginally higher than visiting speakers and large projects).*
 - a. Equipment (e.g. books, sports equipment) *12 yes / 2 no / 2 not selected*
 - b. Technology (e.g. interactive whiteboards, iPads) *13 yes / 1 no / 2 not selected*
Where necessary and not just because it's nice to have a better one.
 - c. Whole class day trips *15 yes / 1 not selected*
Great for this to be paid for if money is there but do not mind paying.
Pre-planned programme.
As long as all children get same allocation of funds, i.e. £20/year. Must be fair.
 - d. Sports/music outings (e.g. transport to tournaments at HVC/music events through the Music Partnership) *10 yes / 4 no / 1 not selected*
Had heard that separate sports funding existed for this?
Could we do more sports at school rather than other places to encourage all children/reduce cost?
 - e. Visiting speakers/educators (e.g. author, science boffin) *15 yes / 1 not selected*
Music and arts workshops great!
 - f. Large projects, e.g.: *As a target, not a generalisation.*
 - i. Building work *10 yes / 3 no / 3 not selected*
Lots of children involved in music, science and arts. Encouraging these in a fun way and having a separate room would be good.
Not maintenance – need to specify!
 - ii. Outdoor space (e.g. tyre park) *12 yes / 2 no / 2 not selected*
 - iii. Minibus *12 yes / 2 no / 2 not selected*
Big priority if it would reduce the cost of trips. Value of this would be huge over many years.
 - g. Other (please specify) *Additional staff/support workers, swimming lessons*

Comments:

Money should be spent to further the aims of the school (e.g. in line OFSTED/School Improvement Plan). Possible to do this AND make events enjoyable/fun/educational/rewarding for pupils.

Paid professionals and volunteers in school well-placed to suggest areas of expenditure to support school aims.

Priority list might be good so that once, say trips are paid for, we can see what we can afford. Spending should be agreed by PTFA/school.

No weighting given as all are important and benefit children at different times in their school life/according to different interests. Great to see equipment/photos of trips/sports events and speakers. Good team effort by PTFA! Very lucky as a school to have this.

3. The outcome of this process will be that we have a list of agreed types of expenditure. Requests for spending will be put in writing to the PTFA via a form (to be agreed at the EGM). Would you be happy with the following options for how these should be agreed/declined?
 - a. Agreed types of expenditure to be approved by the PTFA committee
14 yes / 1 no / 1 not selected.
 - b. Other expenditure to be approved by the majority present at any given PTFA open meeting *14 yes / 1 no / 1 not selected*

Comments:

Could the children be given say £100 per year to spend as they please after a school vote?

As long as minutes published with funding requests, then those present/sent a proxy should vote.

Could e-mail so people who cannot attend could put views in comment box.

Useful to have a process but should not restrict school from reacting quickly if necessary.

Does request need to be in writing? Might add more admin for staff already under pressure and make it difficult for school.

Teachers/head (school professionals) should make decision on where money spent. They are best placed to understand needs of children. What happens if an idea is rejected by majority at PTFA meeting? Would this harm parent/school relationship? If only small number present at meetings making decisions, this would deem it unfair. Could we help school with their ideas and look for cost-effective ways to implement, thereby working alongside school? Would also need monthly meetings to keep on top of requests.

4. Please give your thoughts on the following types of PTFA events/activities:

Event type	Would help to run	Would attend/support	Of no interest
Large events (such as bonfire, auction)	8	11	
Quiz nights	4	10	3
Orienteering events	4	11	1
In-school (non-fundraising) events for the children (such as Easter egg hunt)	8	11	<i>of interest but cannot help!</i>
Summer/Christmas fair	7	12	
Book sales	4	13	2
Cake sales	6	9	1
Uniform sales	2	9	3

We are always looking for volunteers, so please do approach a member of the PTFA committee if you would like to offer your help at any events! As much or as little help as you are able to offer is appreciated!

5. Do you have any further ideas/suggestions for fundraising events?

Comments:

Children like cake sales – good way for them to contribute. If we do fewer would be good to find another way of achieving this, sometimes smaller events add more value but in a different way.

Comedy night was fun.

Love the idea of Friday film night with kids making and selling popcorn.

Nearly new sale – toys/clothes/books.

Car boot.

Cake stalls when open gardens/other large Eyam events.

More events children are involved with/can run with parental guidance. More bike space needed/children would like dinner trays – could run event from start to finish for funding such as this.

2-3 large events preferable to lots of small ones then you are not always having to find/ask for helpers/money/cakes/etc.

6. Do you have any others comments or suggestions for the PTFA committee?

Comments:

Great idea to renew PTA and involve friends and family – will gain more varied ideas and help! Involving everyone is a good way forward.

Great job! Keep it up. Lovely ladies – very inclusive!

Good to have questionnaire but concerns about influence.

Allow school to direct spending based on what they think they need.