



NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL PTFA

Chair's Report

2025/26

Annual General Meeting – 24 September 2026
Registered Charity No. 1015155

FUNDRAISING & ADDITIONAL INCOME RECORDED

£29,784.23

Event/activity-based figure for the Chair's Report.

SCHOOL FUNDING APPROVED

£16,578.67

Funding approved to support pupils, classes and whole-school priorities.

MAJOR PLAY EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT

£27,705

2024/25 project; associated funds transferred/paid during 2025/26.

Chair's Introduction

It is a pleasure to present the Chair's Report for Newton Poppleford School PTFA for the 2025/26 school year.

This has been an incredibly busy and successful year. Through the generosity of our families, volunteers, local businesses, community organisations and grant providers, we have continued to generate significant funds and, more importantly, turn those funds into resources, experiences and improvements that directly benefit children throughout the school.

Over the last few years, the nature of the PTFA has changed considerably. We are no longer simply an organisation that organises fundraising events and provides occasional extras. The level of additional support requested by the school has grown significantly and now extends across educational visits and transport, curriculum resources, classroom equipment, wellbeing, sport, music, art, outdoor learning, technology and major school projects.

The last two school years in particular have seen a major rise in the scale of PTFA investment in the school. This is something we should be extremely proud of, but it also means that keeping the PTFA strong, well organised, properly governed and financially sustainable is more important than ever.

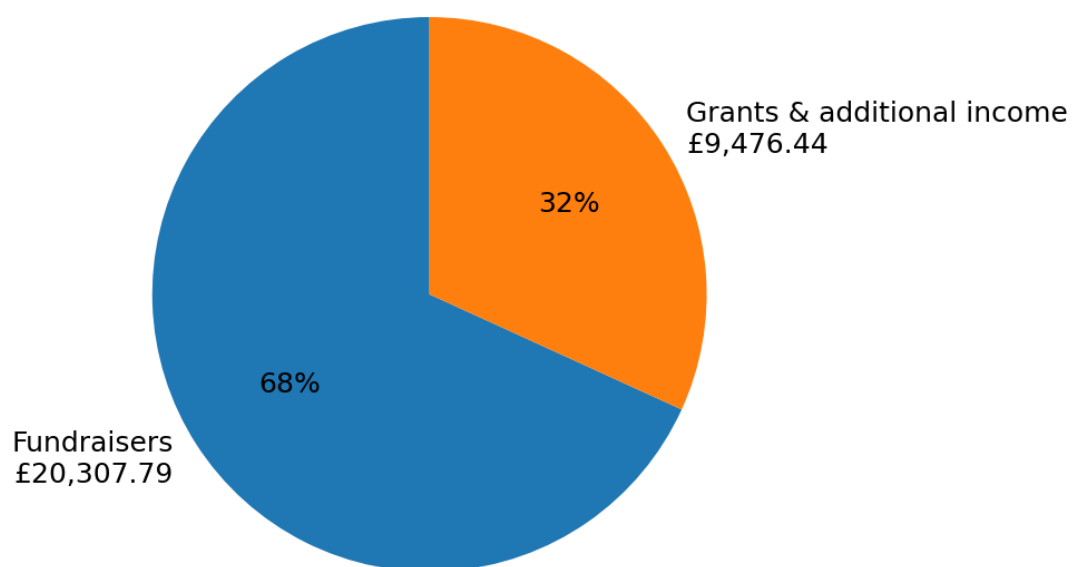
Financial Overview

2025/26 FUNDRAISING & ADDITIONAL INCOME

£29,784.23

Based on the detailed fundraising, grant and additional income records maintained for the Chair's Report, £29,784.23 was recorded across PTFA fundraising activities and additional income during 2025/26. Of this, £20,307.79 relates to fundraising activities and £9,476.44 to grants and additional income. These figures provide an overview of the PTFA's fundraising activity during the year. The charity's formal year-end income, expenditure, cash balances and accounting classifications are reported separately within the Treasurer's Report, Annual Accounts and Trustees' Annual Report. As the Chair's figures are compiled on an event/activity basis, they should not be directly compared with the formal accounting totals without reconciliation, as receipts may be classified differently within the year-end accounts. During the year, the PTFA approved £16,578.67 of new school funding, alongside continued investment in larger projects and resources.

2025/26 Income Mix



Fundraising Highlights

Our events and activities have once again been an important part of PTFA life. The Summer Fête was our largest individual fundraiser at £6,068.27, alongside the Christmas Fair, Cake Sales, Easter Event, School Calendar, Bonfire Night and Quiz Night.

These activities are about more than money. They bring families together, create experiences for the children and strengthen the sense of community around our school.

Grants and Additional Income

Grants, donations and passive fundraising continue to be increasingly important. They allow the PTFA to generate income without relying solely on families spending at events and help us support larger projects.

How the Role of the PTFA Has Evolved

In earlier years, PTFA funding was largely focused on supplementing trips, workshops, enrichment and individual classroom resources. Those areas remain extremely important, but the last two school years have marked a clear step-change in the scale and nature of investment being made in the school.

Alongside year-group support and educational experiences, the PTFA is now helping to fund substantial whole-school resources, technology and major improvement projects. Across the last two years, the outdoor play equipment, Sensory Garden and STEM Classroom demonstrate the increasing scale of what the Association is able to support.

The PTFA does not replace the school's core funding responsibilities. However, the school increasingly looks to the PTFA for additional resources, opportunities and improvements that are harder to provide from core budgets alone.

School Funding Approved in 2025/26

During 2025/26, the PTFA approved £16,578.67 of new funding to support Preschool through to Year 6 and whole-school priorities. This included educational visits and transport, classroom and outdoor resources, sport, music, art, wellbeing, English and Maths equipment, and other curriculum support. Payments made during 2025/26 in respect of projects approved in the previous financial year are reported separately below and are not included within the £16,578.67 of new funding approved during 2025/26. The detailed paid and pending position is reported separately within the financial accounts.

Supporting Every Year Group

The PTFA continued to provide direct financial support across every year group. Each class receives a £250 coach allocation, alongside class fundraising and any eligible carry-forward funds. The separate class-fund record shows £6,807.08 of class-level spending during the year, exceeding the funds available within those class pots by £1,911.11.

This flexible approach helps ensure that worthwhile educational opportunities are not determined solely by how much an individual year group has raised.

Examples of support

Funding supported experiences and resources including Seaton Wetlands, the Golden Hind, the Toy Museum, the Aquarium, Kents Cavern, Lyme Regis, the Roman Baths, Dartmoor, the Eden Project, synagogue transport, RAMM, sporting activities, workshops, classroom resources and Preschool provision.

Previous-Year Projects Completed / Transferred in 2025/26

KS1 & KS2 Outdoor Play Equipment – £27,705

The new KS1 and KS2 outdoor play equipment was a 2024/25 PTFA project and was reported in the 2024/25 Chair's Report. The associated £27,705 was transferred/paid during 2025/26, so it is referenced here for transparency but should not be viewed as a new 2025/26 funding commitment.

Sensory Garden

The Sensory Garden was also a 2024/25 PTFA project and was reported as part of that year’s work. The Treasurer’s reporting records £4,020.94 of associated project funds transferred/finalised during the 2025/26 financial period. The PTFA’s detailed 2025/26 spend record separately identifies £330.94 of final construction expenses. These figures relate to a project crossing financial years rather than a new 2025/26 project. The completed garden now provides a dedicated space supporting wellbeing, inclusion, sensory exploration and outdoor learning.

STEM Classroom

One of the most exciting developments this year is the creation of a dedicated STEM Classroom, supporting practical learning across Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The expected overall PTFA investment is approximately £9,500 once the remaining resources are purchased, including collaborative furniture, specialist equipment and further classroom resources.

Whole-School Enrichment, Wellbeing and Sport

Alongside major projects and year-group funding, the PTFA continued to support activities benefiting children throughout the school. These included mental-health and wellbeing activity, sports leaders equipment, inflatable sports provision, dodgeballs, Exmoor Challenge tops, Art Week, music and practical support during exceptionally warm weather.

Not every investment needs to cost thousands of pounds to have an impact. Relatively modest funding can provide an opportunity, resource or experience that makes a significant difference to children.

Chair’s Reflection

This year has demonstrated just how much the PTFA is capable of achieving. It has also demonstrated how much the organisation itself has changed.

We are now managing more funding requests, larger sums of money, larger school projects, more fundraising activity, more financial administration and greater governance requirements. One of the biggest lessons from this year is that success must be sustainable.

The PTFA cannot continue to depend upon a very small number of people carrying a disproportionate amount of the workload. Going forward, success should not simply be measured by how much money we raise. It should also be measured by how effectively we work together, how evenly responsibility is shared, how clearly we communicate and how successfully we turn the funds entrusted to us into meaningful opportunities for our children.

Committee Structure for 2026/27

Trustee Officer	Primary responsibility
Chair	Strategic leadership, school relationship and oversight of PTFA events and projects
Deputy Chair	Leadership and coordination of the Activity Lead structure
Treasurer	Financial governance, systems, reporting and compliance

Secretary	Governance administration, official records and document control
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As Newton Poppleford School Association is a registered charity, elected Committee members are Charity Trustees and share collective responsibility for the management and governance of the Association. Significant financial, constitutional and organisational decisions are made collectively in accordance with the constitution.

Activity Leads (previously fairies)

Alongside the formal Trustee Committee, we intend to use volunteer Activity Lead roles – previously known as fairies. These roles allow volunteers to take genuine ownership of individual areas of PTFA activity without needing to become a Trustee or Committee member.

Activity Leads are not required to attend Committee meetings and do not vote on formal Committee or constitutional matters. They manage the day-to-day running of their designated area within parameters agreed by the Committee. Any proposed expenditure above £50 requires prior Committee approval.

Possible areas include Book Fair, Cake Sales, Pre-Loved Uniform & Book Shop, Clothing Bank, Freezy Fridays, School Calendar, Allotment, Sensory Garden and Willow Dome. The Deputy Chair will coordinate the Activity Lead structure, with the Chair retaining overall oversight of PTFA events and projects.

Governance and Our Constitution

Our existing constitution dates from 1992. At this AGM, members will be asked to vote on replacing it with the Parentkind Model Constitution for Parent Teacher Associations in England and Wales (March 2021).

This is more than an administrative update. The PTFA is now managing significantly greater financial activity, larger projects and considerably more responsibility than it did when the existing constitution was adopted. Our governing document needs to reflect the organisation we are today and provide a clear modern framework for Trustee responsibilities, decision-making, financial governance, conflicts of interest, meetings, delegation, record keeping and accountability.

Following the AGM

Following the election of the new Committee, Trustee records should be updated, Trustee Eligibility Declarations completed and retained, relevant Charity Commission records updated and an appropriate handover of financial, governance and administrative information completed.

Priorities for 2026/27

- Spread the workload more evenly and reduce over-reliance on a small number of volunteers.
- Improve communication, collaborative working, forward planning and clarity of responsibility.
- Encourage wider parent and carer involvement through manageable volunteering opportunities and Activity Leads.
- Maintain strong financial governance, transparency and communication with the school.
- Carefully prioritise increasing funding requests while balancing immediate needs, existing commitments, available funds and sustainability.
- Continue developing grants, sponsorship and passive fundraising alongside events.

Looking Ahead

The future strength of the PTFA depends upon continued involvement from our school community. Not everyone needs to become a Trustee or Committee member. Helping at one event, taking responsibility for one activity, joining an Activity Lead team, helping with a grant application, approaching a local business, baking, setting up, packing away or simply giving an hour of time can all make a real difference.

A Special Thank You to Our Outgoing Committee Members

Henry Odbert – Deputy Chair

Henry has been part of the PTFA Committee since 2019, giving seven years of voluntary service to our school community. I would like to thank Henry sincerely for the considerable time, energy and support he has given to the PTFA and our school.

Ant Tribble – Treasurer

Ant has served as Treasurer since 2024. The Treasurer's role has become increasingly demanding as the scale of our fundraising, school funding, projects and financial administration has grown. I would like to thank Ant for the considerable amount of time he has given to the PTFA.

Kelly Rogers – Secretary

Kelly has served as Secretary since 2025, supporting the administration, records and organisation required to keep the Committee operating. I would like to thank Kelly for giving her time to the PTFA and for everything she has contributed.

Thank You to Our Community

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the PTFA during 2025/26: our Committee, parents and carers, volunteers, Headteacher and staff, local businesses, community organisations, charitable trusts and grant providers.

OUR COMMUNITY RECORDED

£29,784.23

across fundraising activities, grants and additional income in the Chair's event/activity records for 2025/26.

The financial figures matter, but the numbers themselves are not the achievement. The achievement is what our community's support has made possible across this year and previous-year commitments: outdoor play equipment, the Sensory Garden, educational visits, curriculum resources, wellbeing support, sport, art, technology and a new STEM Classroom.

Finally

I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved during 2025/26. The nature of the PTFA has changed significantly, and the last two years have seen a major rise in the scale of investment being made in Newton Poppleford School.

Our challenge for 2026/27 is not simply to raise more money. It is to ensure that the PTFA remains well organised, collaborative, transparent, appropriately governed and sustainable, so that it can continue providing this level of support for our school for many years to come.

To support Newton Poppleford School and provide the best possible opportunities and experiences for our children.