



Newton Poppleford School Association (PTFA)

Newton Poppleford School, School Lane, Newton Poppleford, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0EL

Register Charity N^o: **1015155**

Newton Poppleford School Association: Trustees' Annual Report *Year Ended 31 August 2026*

Trustees

Mrs G Trengove
Mr A Tribble
Mr H Odbert
Mrs K Rogers

Governing Document

Newton Poppleford School Association is governed by its constitution and is a registered charity (No.1015155), registered on 12 November 1992.

Charitable Objectives

The objective of the charity is to advance the educational needs of pupils in Newton Poppleford Primary School, School Lane, Newton Poppleford, Sidmouth, EX10 0EL.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when planning the charity's activities and expenditure.



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Contents

Contents	2
Introduction.....	3
Executive Summary	3
Financial Stewardship.....	3
Commitments carried forward	4
Income	4
Fundraising events.....	5
Passive	5
Grants	6
Donations	6
Gift Aid.....	7
School Spending	7
Projects.....	7
Year Group Spends	8
Whole School.....	9
Expenses	10
Closing Summary and Recommendations.....	10
Recommendations for 2026/27	11



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Introduction

This report presents the activities and financial performance of the Newton Poppleford School Association (PTFA) for the year ended 31 August 2026. It provides an overview of the funds raised, how those funds have been managed, and the benefits delivered to pupils at Newton Poppleford Primary School during the year.

The Newton Poppleford School Association exists to support the pupils and staff of Newton Poppleford Primary School by raising funds that enhance educational opportunities and enrich the school experience. Through the generosity of parents, carers, local businesses, grant providers and the wider community, the Association helps provide resources, activities and improvements that go beyond what can be funded through the school's core budget.

Despite ongoing financial pressures facing schools, particularly those serving rural communities, the Association remains committed to enhancing the educational experience of every child by providing funding for resources, enrichment activities, educational visits and wider school improvement projects that would otherwise be difficult to deliver through core school budgets alone.

The Trustees remain committed to ensuring that all funds raised are managed responsibly, transparently and in accordance with the Association's charitable objectives. Throughout the year, the Association has continued to work closely with the school to identify areas where financial support can deliver the greatest benefit to pupils and contribute positively to their educational journey.

The Trustees recognise the responsibility placed upon them by parents, supporters, donors and the wider community. Funds are managed prudently and transparently, with careful consideration given to ensuring that expenditure delivers the greatest possible benefit for pupils while maintaining effective control of operational costs.

Executive Summary

The Newton Poppleford School Association continued to deliver substantial support to Newton Poppleford Primary School during the year ended 31 August 2026. Through a combination of fundraising activities, grants, donations and community support, the Association generated income of **£34,437** in the year. Total expenditure and funding delivered during the year amounted to **£53,809**, reflecting the Trustees' strategic decision to utilise both current-year income and reserves accumulated in previous years to maximise benefits for pupils. At year end, the Association held funds of approximately **£30,383**, with **£6,926** of approved commitments carried forward into the 2026/27 School year.

Financial Stewardship

The Trustees remain committed to ensuring that the maximum possible proportion of funds raised is directed towards supporting pupils and enhancing their educational experience. Throughout the year, the Association continued to strengthen its financial controls, budgeting processes and governance arrangements to ensure that all expenditure aligned with the charity's objectives and delivered clear value for money.

Operational expenditure remained broadly consistent with the previous year. Costs increased from **£1,123** (less cash for floats) in 2024/25 to **£1,903** in 2025/26, largely reflecting investment in systems, services and resources necessary to support the growing scale of the Association's



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activities. Despite the increase, operational costs continue to represent a relatively small proportion of overall income and remain carefully managed by the Trustees.

A notable improvement during the year was the reduction in event related expenses. Through improved planning, procurement and financial oversight, out of pocket expenditure reduced significantly from **£4,136** in the previous year to **£2,473** in 2025/26. This reduction was achieved while continuing to deliver a full programme of successful fundraising events and activities.

The introduction of stronger expense controls has also enabled the PTFA to directly fund many event costs at source, reducing the need for volunteers, parents, carers and staff to personally finance purchases before seeking reimbursement. This approach not only reduces the financial burden placed on volunteers but also provides greater transparency, stronger budgetary control and improved oversight of Association funds.

Commitments carried forward

At 31 August 2026, the Association had approved funding commitments totalling **£6,926** that had not yet been drawn down by the school and will therefore be carried forward into the 2026/27 school year. These commitments relate to:

- Egypt Storyteller
- Eden Project
- Aquarium (Due to traffic issues this may not be realised but fund allocated elsewhere)
- 3D Printer
- Books and Sports Equipment
- English and Maths Equipment
- Outdoor Play Hut

These commitments ensure that funds already allocated by the Trustees will continue to deliver benefits to pupils during the forthcoming financial year.

The Trustees would like to thank all volunteers, parents, school staff, grant providers, local businesses and community supporters whose continued commitment and generosity have enabled the Association to make a significant contribution to the educational experiences and opportunities available to the children of Newton Poppleford Primary School.

Income

The Newton Poppleford School Association generated total income of **£34,437** during the year ended 31 August 2026. Income was derived from a balanced mix of fundraising activities, grants, donations and passive fundraising initiatives, enabling the Association to continue delivering meaningful support to pupils and the wider school community.



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Fundraising activities remained the Association's largest source of income, contributing **£24,925**. This consisted of **£15,975** received through electronic and recorded fundraising activity, together with **£8,950** of cash proceeds banked and in hand at the end of year.

In addition, the Association secured **£6,813** in grant funding, received **£891** in donations from individuals and local organisations, and generated **£1,808** through passive fundraising initiatives including the School Lottery, EasyFundraising, the Clothes Bank, Give As You Live.

This diverse income portfolio helps ensure the long term sustainability of the Association and reduces reliance on any single source of funding. The Trustees remain committed to maintaining this balanced approach in order to maximise opportunities for pupils while continuing to invest in projects and initiatives that enhance the educational experience of children across the school.

Fundraising events

Thanks to the dedication, enthusiasm and hard work of our PTFA members, volunteers, staff and wider school community, the Association enjoyed another exceptional year of fundraising.

The highlight of the year was the Summer Fete, which generated **£6,068**, including **£3,364** from the associated Jumblebee Summer Auction and **£500** in sponsorship from a local business. The Christmas Fair raised **£2,793**, while the Easter Event and Bonfire Night generated **£1,584** and **£1,082** respectively.

Class Cake Sales continued to be a valuable source of income, raising **£2,595.69** across all year groups, while the annual School Calendar generated **£1,250** through calendar sales and local business advertising.

In addition to these established events, a wide variety of smaller fundraising activities throughout the year contributed to the Association's continued success. The Trustees are extremely grateful to everyone who volunteered, attended events, donated prizes or provided sponsorship, all of whom have played an important role in supporting the pupils of Newton Poppleford Primary School.

Passive

The PTFA continues to utilise a number of third-party fundraising platforms that generate income throughout the year with minimal ongoing administration. These passive income streams provide a valuable and reliable source of funding, helping to supplement the proceeds generated through events and fundraising activities.

During the year, passive fundraising initiatives generated a total of **£1,808**. The most significant contributor was the School Lottery, which raised **£1,227.95**, followed by EasyFundraising, which generated **£356.87** through online shopping referrals. Additional income was received from the Bags Clothing Collections **£153.60** and Give As You Live **£69.25**.

Whilst these initiatives continue to deliver valuable income, the Trustees recognise that some income streams are becoming increasingly affected by wider economic conditions and changing market values. This is particularly evident in the Bags Clothing Collection scheme, which generated **£153.60** during the year compared with **£266.68** in the previous year, a reduction of over 40%. Rising operating costs, changing textile values and increased processing costs within



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Register Charity N^o: 1015155

the clothing recycling sector are expected to continue impacting returns from this source in future years.

Passive Income	Amount
Bags clothing	£153.60
Easy fundraising	£356.87
School lottery	£1227.95
Give as you live	£69.25
Total	£1,807.67

Grants

Thanks to the proactive efforts and dedication of the Committee Chair, the PTFA has successfully secured a number of grants this year, resulting in a substantial contribution to our overall funding. These grants have enabled us to support a wider range of projects and activities, further enhancing the educational experience for all pupils.

Grant Received	Amount
Co-Operative	£1706.66
CITI Bank (waitrose)	£1000.00
Devon Garden Trust	£355.98
Lord Clinton	£500.00
Fords	£2950.00
Lions	£300.00
Total	£6,812.64

Donations

Most importantly, we would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions made by all PTFA members and supporters. The most generous donation anyone can give is their time, and we are incredibly grateful to the many individuals who have volunteered throughout the year to make our events and projects possible.

In addition to this, we have also received generous financial and material donations from local individuals and organisations. These contributions have played a vital role in supporting our fundraising efforts and enhancing the opportunities we can offer to the students.

Donations	Amount
Jo White Holiday Incentive	£300
Optimal Fitness	£50.00
Tennis club	£496.12
The Cannon	£25.20
Community Larder	£20.00
Total	£891.32



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Gift Aid

The PTFA is registered for Gift Aid which means that an additional 25% can be claimed from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) from any qualifying donations. Qualifying donations are those made by UK tax payers who pay enough UK tax.

It does not cost individuals anything to add Gift Aid to a donation and this should be promoted by the PTFA to encourage donations to include Gift Aid declarations.

School Spending

During 2025/26, the Association continued to invest significantly in projects, enrichment activities and resources that enhance the educational experience of pupils across the school. Expenditure was focused on three key areas: major school improvement projects, direct support for year groups and educational visits, and whole-school initiatives that promote learning, wellbeing and personal development.

A substantial proportion of spending related to commitments approved in previous years that were delivered during 2025/26, alongside new investments in facilities and resources for future generations of pupils. The PTFA also continued to provide flexible funding to year groups and support a wide range of whole-school activities, ensuring that fundraising income delivered maximum benefit across the school community.

To support this increased level of investment, enhanced financial controls and a formal expense management process were introduced during the year, improving transparency, accountability and the efficient management of Association funds

Projects

The 2025/26 financial year saw the completion and delivery of several significant school improvement projects, representing one of the largest periods of investment undertaken by the Association in recent years. A key feature of this expenditure is that a substantial proportion relates to projects and commitments approved by Trustees during the 2024/25 financial year, with payments and delivery taking place during 2025/26 as works progressed and invoices were received by the school.

This approach reflects the long-term nature of many school improvement projects, where funds may be allocated in one school year but not fully realised until a later period. The Association's strong financial position enabled Trustees to honour these commitments while continuing to support new initiatives and opportunities for pupils throughout the year.

The largest investment was the provision of new Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 outdoor play equipment, representing a commitment of **£27,705.00**. This project provides a lasting enhancement to the school's outdoor environment, promoting physical activity, collaboration, confidence and active play for current and future pupils.

The Association also continued to support the development of the school's Sensory Garden, investing the final **£4,020.94** in creating a dedicated space that encourages wellbeing, inclusion, sensory exploration and outdoor learning. This project has been a multi-year commitment and



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Register Charity N^o: **1015155**

forms part of the Association's wider objective of improving pupil wellbeing and enhancing outdoor learning opportunities.

Looking to the future, the Trustees approved a significant investment in a new STEM Classroom, already committing **£4,432.50** towards the creation of a dedicated learning environment for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), with a further **£400** allocated for the purchase of a 3D printer. This investment will provide pupils with access to modern facilities that support creativity, innovation and hands-on learning. Following these commitments, **£1,649** of restricted funds remain available to complete the classroom project.

In addition, **£2,865.60** was allocated for the installation of additional interactive smart boards in teaching spaces outside the STEM classroom.

In total, Trustees approved project funding and commitments of **£39,424.04**. Of this amount, **£31,725.94** relates to projects originally approved and carried forward from the 2024/25 financial year, principally the play equipment and sensory garden developments, which were subsequently delivered and paid during 2025/26. The remaining commitments reflect ongoing investment that will continue to be realised as projects progress.

PTFA Projects	Amount	Details
Play equipment	£27,705.00	KS1 and 2 outdoor play equipment
Sensory Garden	£4020.94	Seating area and planting
Stem Classroom	£4,832.50	Chairs, desks, smart boards and 3D printer
Smart boards	£2865.60	Additional smart boards for school rooms outside the stem room
Total	£39,424.04	
Total *	£31,725.94	

*Note: Total of play equipment and sensory garden brought over from 24-25 school year.

Year Group Spends

A key principle of the Association's funding approach is ensuring that every year group benefits directly from the fundraising activities undertaken by pupils, parents and staff. Individual class cake sales continue to provide each year group with the opportunity to raise its own funds, which are then held and administered by the PTFA on behalf of the classes. These funds are made available to teachers to support educational experiences, classroom resources and activities that best meet the needs of their pupils.

To further support educational visits and reduce the cost burden on families, the PTFA also provides an additional **£250** coach allowance per class. This contribution helps teachers broaden the range of learning opportunities available to pupils by making school trips and off-site activities more accessible and affordable.

During the year, classes utilised their allocated funds to support a wide range of educational visits, enrichment opportunities and classroom resources. Thanks to the Association's strong fundraising performance and healthy financial position, Trustees were able to adopt a more flexible approach to year group funding. Teachers were encouraged to maximise opportunities for pupils and, where



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appropriate, were supported in undertaking activities that exceeded the funds directly available through cake sales and standard allocations.

As a result, a number of year groups benefited from expenditure above their individual fundraising balances. This reflects a deliberate decision by the Trustees to ensure that educational value and pupil experience were prioritised over strict adherence to year group fundraising totals. Rather than limiting activities to the funds raised by each class, the PTFA has sought to ensure that all pupils have equitable access to enriching experiences regardless of the fundraising capacity of individual year groups.

The table below summarises the income generated through class fundraising activities together with expenditure incurred during the year. Negative carry-forward balances represent additional PTFA investment approved by the Trustees to enhance pupil opportunities and will be absorbed through the Association's wider funding programme rather than being recovered from future class fundraising activities.

Class	Cake sale	Spend	Carry Over
Preschool	£528.46	£895.47	-£108.76
Reception	£290.55	£736.68	-£196.13
Year 1	£341.31	£550.00	£41.31
Year 2	£317.43	£890.00	-£114.57
Year 3	£240.07	£667.46	-£143.59
Year 4	£349.13	£1,059.05	-£459.92
Year 5	£200.95	£1,428.00	-£977.05
Year 6	£327.79	£580.42	-£2.63
Total		£6,807.08	

Whole School

In addition to major capital projects and class-based funding, the PTFA continued to invest in a wide range of initiatives designed to enrich the educational experience, promote pupil wellbeing and provide opportunities beyond the core curriculum. These activities ensure that fundraising benefits all pupils across the school and supports their academic, physical, creative and personal development.

Physical activity and leadership opportunities remained a key area of support during the year. Funding was provided to re-establish the school's Sports Leaders programme, enabling pupils to develop leadership skills while promoting participation in sport and physical activity throughout the school. The PTFA also funded new sports equipment, including dodgeballs **£140**, and supplied inflatable activities for Sports week **£300**, helping to create engaging and enjoyable sporting experiences for pupils of all ages.

The Association also supported outdoor learning and personal challenge activities. Funding was provided for Exmoor Challenge team tops **£126**, enabling pupils to participate in this well regarded outdoor adventure event while representing the school with pride.



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Register Charity N^o: **1015155**

Creative opportunities continued to be an important part of the PTFA's contribution to school life. During the year, funding of **£600** enabled a visiting artist to work with pupils, providing a unique opportunity to develop artistic skills and creativity whilst enhancing the wider curriculum.

Supporting pupil wellbeing and mental health remained a priority. The PTFA funded a series of activities as part of a dedicated Mental Health and Wellbeing Week, investing **£725** in events and resources designed to encourage positive wellbeing, resilience and emotional development across the school community.

The exceptionally warm weather experienced during the summer term also prompted targeted support from the Association. To help pupils remain comfortable and safe during periods of high temperatures, the PTFA funded fans and ice lollies **£208** for use across the school, ensuring pupils could continue to learn and play in a more comfortable environment.

Expenses

During 2025/26, the Association introduced an updated formal expense management system, providing improved oversight, transparency and a clearer audit trail for all expenditure. The new process has enabled Trustees to track spending more consistently and strengthen financial controls across all PTFA activities.

A key benefit of the new approach has been the increased use of direct payments for event and project costs, reducing the need for volunteers, parents, carers and staff to make purchases personally and seek reimbursement afterwards. This has not only reduced the financial burden on volunteers but has also improved budget control and accountability.

As a result, reimbursed expenses reduced significantly from **£4,136** in the previous year to **£2,551** in 2025/26.

Closing Summary and Recommendations

The Newton Poppleford School Association has delivered another highly successful year, balancing the completion of major school improvement projects with continued investment in educational experiences, pupil wellbeing and curriculum enrichment. Through the generosity of our volunteers, families, local businesses, grant providers and wider community, the Association generated **£34,437** in year income and delivered **£53,809** of funding and support for the benefit of pupils across the school.

A significant proportion of expenditure during the year related to commitments approved in previous years that were successfully delivered during 2025/26. Major investments included the completion of the KS1 and KS2 play equipment project, the Sensory Garden, and the approval of future investments in the STEM Classroom and additional interactive smart boards. These projects will continue to benefit pupils for many years to come.

The Association also maintained its commitment to ensuring that all pupils benefit from fundraising efforts, providing support for educational visits, enrichment opportunities, sports participation, mental health initiatives and creative learning experiences. Trustees took the decision to provide



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Register Charity N^o: **1015155**

additional support to year groups where appropriate, ensuring that educational opportunities were not limited by individual class fundraising totals.

At 31 August 2026, the Association held funds of approximately **£30,383**, with **£6,926** already committed to projects and educational activities that will be delivered during the 2026/27 academic year. These commitments ensure continued investment in pupils while maintaining a strong financial position for future initiatives.

The Trustees are particularly pleased with the improvements made to financial management during the year. The introduction of enhanced expense controls and a formal expense management process has strengthened governance, improved transparency and reduced the administrative burden placed on volunteers.

Above all, the achievements detailed within this report are only possible because of the dedication, enthusiasm and generosity of our volunteers, staff, parents, supporters and local organisations. The Trustees extend their sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed their time, skills and resources in support of the children of Newton Poppleford Primary School.

Recommendations for 2026/27

- Complete existing commitments by ensuring the successful delivery of the **£6,926** of approved projects and funding currently carried forward.
- Maximise Gift Aid opportunities by promoting Gift Aid declarations wherever possible and reviewing fundraising platforms to ensure all eligible donations are captured.
- Further develop grant funding opportunities, building on the success of grants secured from the Co-operative, Citi Bank and Devon Garden Trust to support future capital and curriculum projects.
- Maintain strong financial controls by continuing to refine the expense management system and expanding the use of direct purchasing to improve oversight and reduce volunteer reimbursement claims.
- Review passive income streams, particularly the clothing bank scheme, to identify alternative or supplementary opportunities that can offset declining returns from textile collections.
- Develop a longer-term project pipeline with school leadership to ensure future fundraising efforts remain aligned to the school's strategic priorities and emerging pupil needs.
- Continue investing in pupil enrichment and wellbeing, maintaining the balanced approach between major capital projects, year-group funding and whole-school activities that has proven successful during 2025/26.



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Trustees' Approval

Approved by the trustees on 20 September 2026 and signed on their behalf:

Name: Mr A Tribble

Position: Trustee and Treasurer

Signature: