



Hill Croft Parent Teacher Association

Report of the Committee by Chairperson for the year ended 31st August 2023

Governing Document

Hill Croft PTA is a charity, based in Northern Ireland and registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC100740) and HM Revenue and Customs (XR96661). The PTA was formed to support the work of Hill Croft School, Newtownabbey, in the education of children and young people aged 3-19, who have severe learning difficulties. The management of the affairs of the PTA are entrusted to a committee.

The committee met in formal meetings every month throughout the year, and on other occasions as required.

Structure

The committee comprises of members elected by the members of the PTA. In addition, the principal of the school is an ex-officio member of the committee, with full voting rights. The committee is vested with the full powers to conduct the affairs of the PTA, and to carry out its objectives, and has the power to raise funds by way of public appeals, collections, ballots, special efforts, and other such means, as are lawful.

No value has been placed on the work carried out by volunteers, and the provision, without charge, of the meeting space and other establishment facilities at Hill Croft School.

Aims and Objectives

The PTA aims to advance the education and learning of those who attend Hill Croft School, by providing, as well as assisting in the provision of facilities for education at the school (not normally provided by the Education Authority). In addition, the PTA encourages collaborations and co-operation between teachers, ancillary staff, parents, and others associated with the school, for the benefit of the pupils, and engages in activities which both support the school, and advances the education of its pupils.



Benefit Test Requirement

The committee is confident that the activities of the PTA met the Public Benefit Requirement.

Achievements 2022-23

Following a less eventful period with restrictions due to Covid, we were determined to be more active supporting the school community.

Events:

- Highly successful Christmas Santa Drive-In where families could bring their young people to visit Santa in a safe & controlled environment. Community based for us, so no entry fee was charged but costs were covered due to donations received on the night.
- Christmas ballot raised close to £2,700.
- The Valentines Disco was well supported by all age groups.
- Easter raffle where all prizes were donated to the PTA.
- Our main event of the year was the bi-annual Hill Croft School formal where we host all our older pupils (16+) and their families. We also invite school leavers from the previous year to join us. Costs were mostly covered via ticket sales, so it was not a large outlay. Most importantly, a great evening was had by all.
- We also had a few staff members complete the Belfast Marathon & designated Hill Croft PTA as their chosen charity within their Facebook Fundraisers.

Purchases:

- Waterproof suits for the foundation department.
- Recycling bags for each classroom and office within the school, supporting the renewed drive to promote recycling in school and at home.
- In collaboration with the 'Knit & Natter' group, which meets at the school, we bought chocolate eggs for placement inside their knitted chicks as part of the School's Easter celebration.
- Water & treats for Hi-5 Performance at Theatre at the Mill.
- Class funds distributed at Christmas and summer term.
- Horticultural Project supported with purchases of compost, seeds, and gardening tools.

Plans for the Future

- To continue to build the school community by engaging with as many parents as possible.
- To continue to follow our rolling 3-year fundraising schedule, rotating staple events whilst maintaining a healthy level of support from families within our school community.
- To support the school's project for an outdoor learning space.
- To provide essential equipment to enhance our new therapy strategies within school.

Risk Management

Through their own direct involvement, the members of the committee identify risks to which the PTA is exposed. They ensure that appropriate systems and controls are in place to manage significant risks.

Independent Accountant

The reporting accountant, T H Hill, is willing to continue in the office and a resolution to reappoint him will be proposed.

Signed: Sharna Rainey Date: 30.6.24

Sharona Rainey, Chairperson