

Downey House PTA

Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31 August 2024

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024.

In July 2024 the Methodist College Board of Governors announced that Downey House would close on 20th December 2024. The aim of the PTA since that date is to create fond memories of the school for all its remaining pupils and also fund an event on the last day of the school to celebrate its long history and the legacy it leaves.

Reference and administrative details

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Registered charity name | Downey House PTA |
| Charity registration number | 102084 |
| Principal office | Downey House School 9 Pirrie Park Gardens Belfast BT6 0AG |
| The trustees | Catherine Donnelly Sarah Gray Debra Stevenson Susan McNeill Sheila Nunn Kate Weir Nicola Smyth Lucy McCutcheon |
| Accountants | William Wilson Chartered Accountants 25 Shore Road Holywood Co Down BT18 9HX |

Structure, governance and management

The charity's governing document is its constitution.

The objects of the charity are detailed in the objectives and activities paragraph below.

Objectives and activities

1. Charitable purposes

The purpose of the Association ('the Purposes') is to advance the education of pupils in the school in particular by:

- Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school; -
- Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

Downey House PTA

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 August 2024

2. Charitable activities

Plans and organises seasonal festivities and events for parents and children at the school, (eg Halloween Party, Christmas Fayre, Summer Fun Night) which are both an opportunity for fundraising and for fostering closer relations between families and within the school. Supports school events eg by providing coffee shops at sports day and Christmas concert. Has set up and runs a second-hand uniform shop for parents. Supports the school in encouraging a safer environment for pupils e.g. by promoting Road Safety Week, arranges social events aimed at bringing parents closer together e.g. Parent's Quiz Nights, supplements fundraising efforts by hosting one-off events – e.g. non-uniform day. Provides vital equipment for school – in the past this has been interactive white boards, and playground equipment. Our recent projects include the refurbishment of the school library and computer suite.

Achievements and performance

During the year the committee organised a number of events including events at Hallowe'en, Christmas and Easter. There was also a "Break the Rules Day", Sponsored Bounce, Colour Run, Prep Festival, Second Hand Uniform Sale, Quiz Night, Leavers Disco.

The charity also contributed to after school sports clubs (with assistance from a Sport NI grant) and contributed to school trips and workshops.

Public Benefit

Purpose 1: Improved relationships between home and school The benefit which flows from this purpose includes funding for additional resources for the school and links built with the local community. This is demonstrated through having an active PTA that works in partnership with the school and engages parental support. This purpose does not lead to harm. The benefit is for children at Downey House School. Charity trustees (PTA committee members) are usually also parents at the school which their children attend and hence gain benefit in the same way as all other beneficiaries. This benefit is incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to all beneficiaries.

Purpose 2: Advancing the education of pupils in the school The benefit which flows from this purpose includes increased educational progress and attainment of pupils in the school and links built with the local community. This is demonstrated through pupils having access to resources, events, activities and links with the local community which are not available through direct school funding. This purpose does not lead to harm. The benefit is for children at Downey House School. Charity trustees (PTA committee members) are usually also parents at the school which their children attend and hence gain benefit in the same way as all other beneficiaries. This benefit is incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to all beneficiaries.

Appointment of Charity Trustees

The charity shall actively promote a board of trustees which include a range of skill, experience and knowledge in keeping with pursuance of its objects.

Downey House PTA

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 August 2024

Financial review

As at 31 August 2024 the charity holds an amount of £11,959 in reserves. This is to ensure that there is adequate cover for any contingencies.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 23 June 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Signed by:

A4C5A2979ECE498...
Catherine Donnelly
Chair