

Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) of St Joseph's Primary School, Strangford Annual Report for Academic Year September 2025 to June 2026

Why does the PTFA exist?

The PTFA of St Joseph's Primary School was set up approximately 15 years ago. The aim of the PTFA is similar to that of the schools - to be at the heart of the community and the community is at the heart of the PTFA. The PTFA aims to create a strong partnership between parents, teachers, friends of the school community to support and enhance the children's education, well-being, and overall school experience through fundraising and organizing events to be at the heart of our local community. We raise funds for resources and activities beyond the school's budget, fostering a supportive environment to provide educational and fun experiences for every child at St Joseph's Primary School in Strangford.

Overview of charitable structure, how it is governed and expenditure decisions

I was voted in as Chair at our AGM meeting on 25th September 2025, a number of previous members left the Committee and new members joined. The Secretary is currently Grainne Carr, Treasurer Amanda Cree and Committee members are Rosie Moore, Kerry Dinsdale, Emma Magee, Nicole Fitzsimons, Catherine Deegan, Clare Miskelly and Karla Hanvey. Relevant details are kept of their contact information.

A Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is advised to have a minimum of three trustees, typically the Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary primarily to ensure proper governance, legal compliance, and robust financial management therefore in my new role as Chair I ensured the Committee had appointed 3 trustees as a registered charity we are required to do so, these are Sonya McAllister, Amanda Cree and Grainne Carr and got signed declarations of their roles.

It had been some years since the PTFA's Constitution had been developed, therefore I revised this in consultation with the Principal Laura Fitzsimons and included a code of conduct and reissued to every member. I also ensured every member of the Committee was issued with the schools Health and Safety and Child Protection policies.

As Chair I set up and hold regular meetings with the Committee, we agree activities and events to run throughout the academic year in consultation with the Principal Laura Fitzsimons. I discuss expenditure and needs of the school with Laura regularly and then the Committee agree any spends collectively at our meetings.

Amanda Cree maintains all financial records including preparation of annual accounts which are ratified by the schools secretary, currently Jennifer Coates before submitting which we are required to do under Section 65 of the Charities Act in accordance with the general directions given by the Charitable Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65 (9) (b) of the Charities Act.

Highlights from the 2025/26 academic year

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We ran a number of events as follows:-

- Halloween Bingo on Thursday 23rd October 2025
- Movie night on Thursday 27th November 2025
- Wreath making workshop on 4th December 2025
- Christmas Raffle on 17th December 2025
- Elf hunt on 19th December 2025
- Paint and Sip ceramics evening on 7th March 2026
- Easter Scavenger hunt and Bake Off and sale on 29th March 2026
- Crazy Hair day on 1st May 2026
- Staff Appreciation – National Thank a Teacher Day on 17th June 2026

Thank you to everyone who supported our PTFA and ultimately St Joseph's Primary School. To all the local businesses and beyond who have provided vouchers or donated items which helped to support our various raffles and events throughout the year. Special thanks go to a number of parents, grandparents, friends and business owners from our local community who provided additional support at some of our events.

- Mike Jones for being our Bingo caller at the Halloween Bingo
- Natalie Kennedy from Nat's Bloom Room for facilitating our Wreath Making Workshops
- Charlene Rooney from Charlene Rooney Ceramics for facilitating our Paint and Sip Ceramics event
- Anne Quail, Jennifer O'Reilly and George Black for being our Bake Off Judges

Finally, to all the parents of our local community who attended events, participated in competitions and donated prizes for various raffles we want to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely because without you we wouldn't be able to raise the funds that we do for St Joseph's Primary school.

Special thanks to our PTFA volunteers at St Joseph's Primary School

I personally want to take this opportunity to officially thank every single member of the PTFA because without them the Committee wouldn't exist and the fantastic events, we have run this year wouldn't have happened. We are fortunate to have a such great group of volunteers who give up their time and donate various items for each and every event we hold at their own cost so thank you very much as you make my role as Chair much easier by being a great group of women to work with to pull off each and every event we have ran during this academic year.

I know that Laura as the Principal and the children of the school would also offer their thanks for everything they do to run all the fun activities and events and provide

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great resources for the school, free meals and days out for every child at St Joseph's Primary school.

A special thanks goes to Rosie Moore who is our marketing and design guru who does all our fantastic promotional flyers/posters etc. and also for assisting the Chair to manage our social media content and email account. Also, a special thanks to Amanda Cree for keeping our accounts up to date, providing floats for events and everything else finance related.

Feedback about events - Please see pictures of events and feedback on our Facebook page.

Aims and Plans for the forthcoming academic year 2026/27

The PTFA aim to continue to be at the heart of the local community, providing a variety of great events and activities for everyone across all age ranges to participate in and enjoy. So far, we have planned the following to date, with more events in the pipeline.

- Family Halloween Bingo on Thursday 22nd October 2026 in the Church Hall
- Baubles and Bites with Charlene Rooney (Paint and Sip) on Saturday 21st November 2026
- Christmas Raffle date to be confirmed for December 2026
- Elf Hunt date to be confirmed around the village for December 2026
- Pub Quiz on Friday 29th January 2027 in the Hole in the Wall pub
- Other events during 2027

During this academic year, we also want to improve our presence on the official St Joseph's Primary school website and ensure we utilise the PTFA Facebook page on social media to advertise events and show them off so parents, teachers and friends can see what we're up to - so watch this space!

Summary of Financial details for the academic year 2025/26

Opening balance from 2024/25 academic year was £800

Summary of profit from money raised at each event during this academic year:-

- Halloween Bingo £615
- Movie night on £330
- Wreath making workshop £387
- Christmas Raffle £1770
- Paint and Sip ceramics evening £450
- Easter Scavenger hunt, Bake Off and sale £600
- Crazy Hair day £41

Please note we also had income from Easy fundraising, Asda CashPot, donations and a Lidl voucher.

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Summary of expenditure throughout the academic year was on the following:-

- 70 hi-vis vests for all children's journeys to school during winter months £164.92
- Christmas selection boxes £85.14
- Christmas school dinners for all children £260
- Percussion musical instruments £438.94
- 2 bookcases for new classrooms £143.80
- Fresh fruit Friday's £165
- St Patrick's Day entertainment for school £160
- Easter eggs £50
- Sports day lollies for children £26.95
- P7 Leavers hoodies £365
- P1 to P5 end of year school trip and transport £700.50
- P6 to P7 end of year school trip and transport £1035.60
- Staff appreciation day £86.63
- Down Community Transport Bus yearly membership £30
- Ice cream van (end of year) £100
- Treats for P7 leavers £25.80
- Cash donation for use of Church Hall all year £100

Closing balance at the end of 2025/26 academic year £1356.86

Notes:-

- *Other expenses of bank charges, ParentKind membership for insurance etc.*
- *The Committee have agreed to purchase additional tables to use at events and will do so in September 2026*
- *Full accounts are independently examined by the school secretary annually before being submitted to the Charity Commission*
- *Accounts are presented to the Charity Commission from April to March (the financial year so differ from this academic year breakdown)*

Joining the PTFA

Finally, if anyone is interested in joining the PTFA or volunteering at events please do not hesitate to contact the Chair or any member of the PTFA as everyone is welcome to get involved. We can be contacted in person or at stjosephsps.ptfa@yahoo.com

Sonya McAllister

Chair of the PTFA