

# Parentkind

Bringing together home & school

## Clear Objectives

Your PTA's objectives are a statement of its purposes as a charity.

Setting out the objectives of your association is good governance. Everything your association does should be aimed at achieving these objectives.

## What do you mean by charitable objectives?

By their very nature, PTAs act charitably and are therefore considered as charities. You will have set up your PTA with a purpose in mind and your objectives (known as 'objects' in your constitution) are a statement of those purposes.

A charity's purpose will be set out in the 'objects clause' of your PTA's [constitution](#) or governing document.

Setting out the objectives of your association is good governance. Everything your association does should be aimed at achieving this objective.

Charitable objects are designed to be broad and last over a number of years. This will support your PTA to deliver a range of events and activities. Typically, they state that a PTA will advance the education of pupils at the school. For example, the objectives in the [Parentkind model constitution](#) are:

- 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.

## How can we develop our objectives?

It is a legal requirement that in order to be a 'charitable purpose', a purpose must fall within one of the descriptions of purposes in the Charities Act and be for the public benefit. This has to be demonstrated in each case. Information relating to the development of appropriate objectives can be found on the Charity Commission website:

- [Guidance: charitable purposes](#)
- [How to write charitable purposes](#)

## Who decides what activities do and don't achieve our PTA's objects?

It is the right and responsibility of elected committee members to determine whether or not any event or activity will help a PTA achieve its charitable objects. However, it's important to consult your members to gather support along the way. Activities that are contentious, or where you worry about communicating to your members, are probably outside of the scope of your charitable objects. Common examples include buying thank you gifts for teachers or committee members. Donors to your PTA will not envisage that you will use their contribution to buy personal gifts as opposed to funding an activity aimed at advancing the education of pupils.

## **How do we achieve our objects?**

It is important for elected committee members to understand their charitable objects and to plan accordingly to achieve these. As these are typically focused on advancing the education of pupils, it will be important for your PTA to work in partnership with parents and the school to understand the needs of pupils and how these can best be supported. Think carefully about how you consult with parents to understand their views. The school will have an annual improvement/development plan which will highlight its priorities in order to advance the education of pupils at the school. Your PTA should talk to the school to understand how your activities can help achieve these priorities. Think broadly; while an event might have the objective of fundraising for a specific purpose, it may also be an important way to break down barriers and get more parents involved in the school, to develop links between the school and local businesses or to give pupils direct experience of volunteering and fundraising for a charity.

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