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Governance support resources

Community relationships - between the school board and parent groups

There are no official guidelines concerning the relationship between a school board and any parent/whānau group in the school, often called a PTA, Home and School, or Friends of the School, but there are a few simple principles to keep in mind. For simplicity we use PTA in this resource.

This list is indicative rather than exhaustive

- The school board and parent groups are separate organisations and are autonomous although there may be personnel overlaps
- Boards govern the school, and PTAs often support by providing useful mechanisms for communications, such as community forums
- The main purpose of PTAs usually seems to be fund-raising, but if the relationship is positive much can be achieved in other areas
- All money raised by a PTA belongs to the PTA, is held in its own bank account, and is not controlled by the school board
- Money raised and held by the PTA may be subject to audit but this is separate from audits of board accounts
- Any funds raised by the PTA become Crown funds when gifted to the board
- Any money should be gifted unconditionally to avoid GST implications
- Any negotiations should take place about what the money will be spent on before any money is “unconditionally gifted” to the board
- PTA personnel have no rights other than as members of the public when they attend board meetings
- Most board members have the same rights as anyone else when attending PTA meetings if they are either parents or staff
- PTAs have no right to spend their funds on, say, an adventure playground, when the board wishes to commit all available money to improving the library resources
- PTAs must obtain the permission of the board to use school buildings and/or grounds for their activities
- PTAs must obtain the permission of the board to use the school name in any event they organise, be it a fundraising event or not
- Boards and PTA’s may consider a Memorandum of Understanding between the parties to enable a shared understanding of the roles and responsibility of each group
- School boards and PTAs should always try to live in harmony for the good of the education of the children.



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For further advice please contact the **Advisory and Support Centre** on
0800 782 435, option 1 or
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