
What is FOCS?

Our parents association is known as the Friends of Charlesworth School (FOCS). It serves as an excellent way for staff, governors, children, and families to join together in support of our school.

What do we do?

We run a variety of fun events that bring together the school community, and also raise funds for additional resources. Last year we organised book cafés, school discos, film nights, a quiz night, a Christmas fair, Christmas secrets room, refreshments and DVD production at school productions, a bonus ball scheme, and a walking float and stall at Charlesworth carnival.

The events are a great way for people to socialise, and help to create links between home and school. They're lovely to participate in, and the money raised helps to enrich our children's time at school.

How is the money spent?

Money raised by FOCS helps to provide extra items or activities that make school life even better! Previous spending has, for example, paid for new books and sports equipment, been put towards playground improvements, and met some of the cost of school trips. Current and future spending projects include supporting the school's IT upgrade, renewing playground equipment, and purchasing additional literacy and maths resources.

FOCS work closely with school to determine how best we can allocate funds, so that our children benefit from all our efforts. We have regular meetings where we make decisions about spending, as well as planning events.

What happens at the meetings?

FOCS meet every few weeks (in the pub!) to discuss our projects and finances, and everyone is welcome to come along. The meetings are friendly and informal, and people can find out what's going on, and contribute ideas and opinions.

How can I get involved?

We're always looking to welcome new people! The success of FOCS is entirely reliant on a small army of amazing volunteers. Getting involved with FOCS is enjoyable and rewarding, and

there are numerous ways you can help. We always need people to help out at events – jobs like manning a stall for an hour at the Christmas fair, or selling glow sticks at a disco. There are also things that can be done from home like baking a cake for book café, or wrapping gifts for secrets room. It doesn't matter if you can't help regularly, and there's no commitment; just join in as much as you wish to. Look out for fliers in book bags, posters around school, and on our Facebook page for upcoming events. You can also find news and information on the school website

If you'd like to get involved with the wonderful work that FOCS volunteers do, please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you!

www.charlesworth.derbyshire.sch.uk/focs

www.facebook.com/groups/focsglossop