Walkern Primary School PTA

c/o Walkern Primary School

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Charity Reg: 1052395



 **Information for You and Your Employer about ‘Match Funding'**

Did you know that many large companies support their employees charitable giving by matching their donations? This can apply to events where you have given your time to raise funds for a charity. Match funding or match giving is a simple way of maximising the fundraising efforts of parent/PTA volunteers.

It is an informal albeit corporate arrangement between a company and their employee. The government encourages businesses, from large multinationals to sole traders and self-employed individuals, to donate to charity. It does this by allowing the amount donated to charity by each business to be offset against their annual tax bills.

**How Does It Work?**

It is very straightforward. For example, a parent, who works for a company that offers matched funding, volunteers to work on the refreshment stall at the PTA summer fair. The profit made by the stall is £100. The parent's employer will then match this amount with a further £100 (assuming they offer a £ for £ match).

Companies frequently also offer match giving on cash donations made by their employees whether this is done directly via direct debit or Payroll Giving (which is when you donate straight from your wages or pension, before tax is deducted from your income).

The amount offered will vary from company to company. If three parents work for the same employer then all three can ask for matched funding. This truly is a win-win situation as it raises significant extra funds for the PTA (with no additional effort or cost) and the company sees tax benefits.

**Do All Employers Offer Match Funding?**

All employers can, but not all do. Some employers prefer to nominate specific charities to make donations to and some employers operate grant schemes. Generally speaking, banks and building societies, insurance companies, supermarkets, utilities providers, energy and phone companies and car manufacturers are the kind of organisations that may have these programmes in place. The overwhelming majority of employers will have some method of making donations to reduce their tax liabilities, so it is always worth investigating.

**Should I Ask My Employer?**

Yes - please do! Remember, this is not asking your employer to give money away. One way or another your employer will be spending the money. It is simply a case of asking whether they would consider giving the money to the school‛s projects funded by our PTA (which is a registered charity) rather than to the taxman!

A Community Relations or HR Manager will be the person to approach initially. In smaller companies where such posts do not exist, it is preferable to go to the immediate line manager to ascertain the most appropriate person to speak to. It is important to 'sell' the value of supporting our PTA. Explain why the PTA needs funds and what you do for your school community