



The PLACE Programme is a Bedford Local Authority support service for home educating families managed through Biddenham Upper School in Bedford. In addition to supporting a range of GCSE subjects, PLACE runs a very busy enrichment programme for enrolled youngsters from approximately ages four to sixteen.

The PLACE Programme is supported, steered and self-regulated by a voluntary Committee of parents whose children are current or past registrants with the scheme.

The PLACE Programme
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*A Voluntary Group of H.E.
Parents Who Work Together
to Support and Enhance PLACE
Programme Provisions*

**GET
INVOLVED**
Be a volunteer. Make a difference.



PLACE Programme Committee

PLACE's Committee comprises a team of volunteer PLACE parents from differing backgrounds who are nominated and elected annually by families within the group. PLACE parents elected to Committee share a unity of purpose: wherever possible to work together cohesively and in a spirit of friendly co-operation to improve and enhance provisions for all of our PLACE youngsters.

Committee members learn from each others' strengths and experiences and are keen to be involved with the work and responsibilities of the PLACE Programme Manager, of other Committee members and of parents in the group. Committee members listen, discuss, observe and reflect in order to assist with the direction and shape of PLACE's programmes and to improve PLACE provisions and support.

The PLACE Committee is always pleased to receive recommendations and ideas from PLACE parents and youngsters in the group. All of PLACE's past and current themes, programmes and enrichment activities have, in fact, been established and endure as a result of suggestions, wishes, requests and support over the years from participating families. Committee members welcome suggestions that may help to enrich PLACE children's lives and further enhance their educational opportunities, the practical and emotional support available and their experiences within PLACE.

PLACE Committee members meet regularly throughout the year, working in unison to assist and support the PLACE Programme Manager and one another with administration and with the planning and development of PLACE provisions.

New suggestions or ideas that PLACE parents feel may add to PLACE support and that they would like Committee to consider can be raised and discussed with any Committee member, posted in the "Suggestions Box" at TOP or emailed to the Committee Secretary. Such suggestions are regularly considered and discussed by Committee and, when agreement is reached will, if possible, be adopted following PLACE Committee meetings.

Many PLACE parents who are not Committee members also assist regularly on a voluntary basis with a range of sundry tasks within the group.

Who are PLACE's Committee Members?

To find out who is currently serving as a Committee member, log on to the PLACE website www.PLACE-Programme.org and click on the "Committee" tab. This will take you to a webpage with pictures of, and a brief resume about, each of the current Committee members.



How Do I Join PLACE's Committee?

PLACE parents who would like to join the Committee and who satisfy eligibility criteria (please see the Committee nomination form in the "Forms" section of the PLACE website for full details regarding eligibility) can download a nomination form and a copy of the *Code of Practice for Committee Members* from the PLACE Programme website.

When are Committee Members Elected?

Nominees are required to submit their completed forms at least two weeks in advance of the Annual General Meeting, which is usually held in June. All PLACE families are invited to the AGM to take an active part in electing the Committee of parents who volunteer to serve their needs and who work in harmony to provide PLACE children with rich educational experiences.

Do I have to Join the Committee to Help in PLACE?

It is not necessary to be a Committee member to assist with different tasks within the group and to help during PLACE activities. Indeed, without the voluntary support of PLACE parents, PLACE simply would not function efficiently! For example, our PLACE volunteers run rotas; assist tutors; help with organisation of the PLACE library; act as contacts and assist with attendance registers at activities; order/distribute CGP books; assist at educational excursions; offer guidance, support and expertise to new PLACE families who are "finding their HE feet"; help in many different ways to welcome, support and integrate new PLACE youngsters.

...so, do please get involved and offer your help too! PLACE has endured into its 14th year because of parents' input and unstinting support and their willingness to compromise and work together effectively as a team.