

How to Organise a Successful School Car Wash

What is a Car Wash Fundraiser?

A Car Wash is a fun and hands-on fundraising event where children, teachers, and parents volunteer to wash cars in exchange for donations. It's simple to set up, requires minimal resources, and can raise significant funds for your school, all while providing an engaging activity for your school community.

Step-by-Step Guide to Organising a Car Wash

1. Plan the Event

Start by setting the basic details for your car wash:

- **Date and Time:** Choose a date, preferably on a weekend, that works well for both volunteers and attendees. Aim for a sunny day and have a backup date in case of rain.
- **Location:** The school car park or a local parking area with easy access to water and drainage is ideal. Ensure there's enough space for cars to pull in, get washed, and exit smoothly.
- **Set a Fee/Donation:** Set a reasonable suggested donation for the car wash, such as £5-£10 per car. You could also offer additional services like tyre shining or interior hoovering for a small extra charge.

2. Recruit Volunteers

A successful car wash requires plenty of helpers:

- **Children Volunteers:** Get children involved in washing cars and drying them. Make sure they are supervised, especially around cars in motion.
- **Adult Volunteers:** Parents and teachers should help oversee the washing stations and handle money.
- **Team Assignments:** Divide volunteers into teams with specific tasks, such as washing, drying, soaping, rinsing, and managing the donation station.

3. Gather Supplies

Make sure you have all the necessary supplies:

- **Buckets, Sponges, and Soap:** Purchase car-safe soap, sponges, and brushes. Make sure there are plenty of buckets and hoses for rinsing.
- **Drying Towels:** Microfibre towels work best for drying cars without leaving streaks.
- **Signage:** Create signs to advertise the event and direct cars into the wash area. You can also make posters to hold up by the roadside to attract passing traffic.
- **Water Access:** Ensure you have access to a water source, such as outdoor taps, and long hoses to reach multiple cars.



4. Promote the Event

Get the word out to the school community and beyond:

- **School Newsletters and Flyers:** Announce the car wash in the school newsletter and send flyers home with children.
- **Posters and Signs:** Display posters around the school and put up signs near the entrance on the day of the event to catch the attention of drivers passing by.



5. Organise the Day of the Event

Make sure everything runs smoothly on the day:

- **Set Up Stations:** Create washing stations with clear roles for each team (soaping, rinsing, drying) and have volunteers assigned to each task.
- **Safety First:** Ensure there are clear safety measures in place to manage the flow of cars and keep children safe. Use cones or barriers to mark the areas where cars enter, park, and exit.
- **Money Collection:** Have a designated person (or two) collecting donations as cars arrive or before they leave. Make sure you have a secure container for cash donations.

6. Provide Extras

Consider offering additional services to raise more money:

- **Add-Ons:** Offer tyre cleaning, hoovering, or air freshener as optional extras for an additional fee.
- **Refreshments:** Set up a small refreshment stand with snacks and drinks for sale, or even have volunteers hand out flyers promoting future school events.

7. Wrap-Up

When the event is over:

- **Tidy Up:** Clean the area, pack away supplies, and make sure no waste is left behind.
- **Count the Funds Raised:** Calculate the total donations and let everyone know how much was raised. Share the results in the school newsletter or on social media.

Tips for Success

- **Pre-Sell Tickets:** Sell car wash tickets in advance to guarantee attendance and boost funds early.
- **Advertise Heavily:** Place signs near busy roads on the day of the event to attract drivers from outside the school community.

Final Thoughts

A Car Wash is a low-cost, engaging fundraising activity that can bring together your school community while raising funds for important school initiatives. With good organisation, teamwork, and a splash of fun, your school can successfully run a car wash that everyone will enjoy.

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www.primaryfundraisinghub.co.uk