

## **Annual Governance Impact Statement for the Multi-Academy Trust School year 2023-2024**

### **The core functions of the governing board**

As defined by the Department for Education (DfE) in The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013, the core functions of the governing board include:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Ensuring the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

In exercising their functions the governing board shall:

- Act with integrity, objectivity and honesty and in the best interests of the school; and
- Be open about the decisions they make and the actions they take and in particular shall be prepared to explain their decisions and actions to interested parties.

**Our governing board has a code of conduct which is reviewed and agreed annually. All governors and associate members are obliged to abide by this code.**

### **Strategic leadership that sets and champions vision, ethos and strategy**

We do this by setting out our vision for the future of the school, in collaboration with the senior leadership team, which has student progress and achievement at its core. We have clear mechanisms for enabling the Board to listen, understand and respond to the voices of all stakeholders in order to initiate and lead strategic change when this is in the best interest of the young people who attend our school. We hold a Governor's Strategy event in the Autumn term each year.

### **Accountability that drives up educational standards and financial performance**

We do this by undertaking a rigorous analysis of student progress and attainment data, comparing this with local and national benchmarks. We have clear processes for overseeing and monitoring school improvement and providing constructive challenge to our leadership team. The Board has effective controls in place for managing our resources and ensuring financial probity

### **People with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity**

We do this by appointing governors and trustees who understand the purpose of governance and have the skills to deliver it well. We have an effective Chair and Vice-Chair who have the ability to provide visionary strategic non-executive leadership. We encourage governors to undertake training to ensure that everyone is up to speed with recent government guidance and legislation. We employ a professional Clerk to provide expert advice and guidance.

### **Structures that reinforce clearly defined roles and responsibilities**

We do this by putting in place appropriate committee structures to reflect the scale and structure of the academy and to ensure sufficient and robust oversight of key priorities. We appoint individual governors to oversee specific responsibilities e.g., Child Protection, Pupil Premium, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Equal Opportunities etc. We ensure sufficient separation between members and trustees to enable members to exercise their powers objectively.

**Compliance with statutory and contractual requirements**

We do this by ensuring that we have awareness of, and adherence to, responsibilities under education and employment legislation, charity and company law and all other legal duties. We ensure that key duties are undertaken effectively across the academy in relation to safeguarding, inclusion, special educational needs and disability (SEND). We monitor and have oversight of the impact of Pupil Premium and other targeted funding streams. Evaluation to monitor and improve the quality and impact of governance We do this by undertaking regular audits to identify skill and knowledge gaps so that these can be addressed by appropriate training. When governors join the Board they are required to undergo an induction course for new governors. Our qualified clerk documents evidence of the Board's discussions and decisions as well as the evaluation of its impact.

**Governance Arrangements**

Members: 3  
Trust/Trustees: 6  
Parent Governors: 2  
Staff Governors: 1  
Co-Opted Governors: 9  
Head teacher: 1

**Governors attendance Record**

Attending governing board meetings is an essential part of a governor's role and all governors are mindful of the importance of receiving information at the same time to help them to make informed decisions. All our governing board meetings and committee meetings are quorate which means that 50% or 3 or more governors attend each meeting. Without this level of attendance, approval of important decisions would not be possible.

You can see the full list of governors and their attendance at meetings, on the school website.

**Assessment and impact of the governing board during 2022/2023 school year**

One of our priorities has been to offer students in all year groups a wide range of enrichment opportunities, both within and beyond the school day. Year 7 students have accessed a multitude of lunchtime clubs which contribute to the Sharples Baccalaureate. Many Year 9 students have signed up to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the PE department are reporting record numbers of students attending extra-curricular sessions.

From February 2023 Sharples offered a free breakfast to all students to get them off to a great start to the day.

**Premises**

The theatre has had a full makeover with retractable seating which now seats up to 283 people. The library has had a full overhaul with a new interactive screen and lots of brand new books. Our classrooms have been decorated, had new furniture added and new interactive boards installed.

There has been a full upgrade for all the fire doors throughout the premises. Two cycle shelters and a scooter rack have been installed to encourage students to use alternative modes of transport and have a safe, dry place to store their equipment.

## **Continued Focus for 2023-2024**

We have recruited new members to the board to replace some of our valued governors who have now left, and have provided support and mentoring as needed to help the new governors to fulfil their roles.

External advisors and Improvement Partners are welcomed into the school to ensure continued improvement and progress.

Heads of Departments regularly attend Governing Body meetings to provide incisive updates on their specific areas of responsibility. Governors both support and challenge information given to ensure continued progress and use of best practice. Reports and presentations on a variety of subject areas allow detailed projections on future results, which remain very encouraging.

**Policies** - Governors regularly review and agree on key school policies. A number of statutory policies and procedures have been written and updated in compliance with all relevant legislation including Safeguarding Policy and Procedure, Health and Safety Policy, Accessibility Plan, Equality and Diversity Policy.

**Premises** - Governors are responsible for overseeing the maintenance and development of the school premises, and make decisions about how the school should use the budget.

**Pupil Premium** - Governors monitor “vulnerable cohorts” of children and have discussed how the Pupil Premium funding is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their outcomes. See our ‘Pupil Premium Statement’ for further detail regarding impact upon outcomes.

The progress of all pupils is continually monitored and championed throughout the academic year and, where necessary, rigorously challenged.

**Staffing** - Sharples continues to add value to students' learning and wellbeing and have now introduced two permanent school counsellors. There is a male and female counsellor where students can either attend a drop in session or make regular appointments with the counsellor.

## **Celebrating school successes**

We are very proud of the achievements of our Year 11 school leavers who achieved a fabulous set of GCSE results. The Class of 2022 achieved 64% Grade 5 or above in both maths and English, with 83% achieving at least a Grade 4 in both subjects. In addition, the number of students achieving Grade 9's continues to rise, year on year. Once again Sharples has achieved outcomes which are significantly higher than national figures on all key accountability measures.

Sharples is extremely happy to be the winner of ‘Leadership Team of the Year’ in the National School Awards and our Director of Business and Finance, Mrs Pedder, was also named as ‘Business Manager of the Year’ in the Education Today Awards for 2022.

The staff of Sharples School were selected from thousands of nominations to win a Pearson National Teaching Silver Award for Making a Difference – Secondary School. This is for the outstanding commitment to changing the lives of the children they work with every day.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme - Sharples continues to deliver the Duke of Edinburgh, Bronze and Silver awards to our students. Any young person can take part in the DofE – regardless of ability, gender, background or location. Achieving an Award isn't a competition or about being first. It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.

Through a DofE programme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs, University and job applications. Top employers recognise the work-ready skills award holders bring to their business.

### **School Activities**

In January, over 150 Year 7 Students enjoyed the annual 'Night at the Museum' trip, they arrived back very tired but with great memories that will last for a lifetime.

Students have engaged with numerous educational, sporting and cultural opportunities including our 'Theatre Club' and, as always, the students have been excellent ambassadors for our school and the values which we uphold.

The Student Affairs Committee were delighted to be involved with a visit from Sir Keir Starmer. Our new Year 7 members had the honour of interviewing Sir Keir on the current 'Cost of Living Crisis', all students that were involved in the interview handled themselves impeccably and behaved in an extremely positive manner with compliments given by Sir Keir himself.

In June, pupils from our Spanish partner school, IES Punta del Verde in Seville, came to visit Sharples. The 16 pupils and their teachers got involved in lessons and throughout the weekend the students were taken to Liverpool, different areas of the Lake District and Smithills Farm. The Spanish pupils enjoyed some fish & chips and were pleasantly surprised by the British delicacy.

It has been brilliant to see the number of students attending clubs each week. There are over 40 extra-curricular clubs on offer which include STEM club, swimming club, fantasy football club, debate club and even Star Wars club, to name a few!



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## OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

At Sharples we:

- have an aspirational culture; we encourage our students and staff to be ambitious and we provide them with the building blocks to fulfil their potential;
- have a broad and balanced curriculum that challenges students and promotes a love of learning;
- are a vibrant learning community; teaching and learning is at the heart of all that we do;
- care about each other and work hard to promote positive wellbeing for all.

### Find out more about our school:

- Link to Ofsted report: [Ofsted | Sharples School](#)
- Our school's Ofsted data dashboard can be found at: [Sharples School - GOV.UK - Find and compare schools in England +](#)
- [https://twitter.com/SharplesSchool?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/SharplesSchool?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)
- <https://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/category/newsletters/>

Governors always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents

## Appendix 2 - Register of Interest 2022-2023

Name and category	Term of office ends	Sub-committee membership	Specific responsibilities	Business interests	Trusteeships and governorships of other educational institutions and charities	Relationship (s) to other governors or staff members
Mr Afzal Babariya	March 2026	Risk & Audit		None	None	None
Mr A Barnes	September 2026	Standards		None	None	None
Mr Rayaz Chel	October 2026			None	None	None
Mr S Gija (Parent)	October 2023	Standards		Committee member at Crompton FC Football Club since Oct 2021	Chair of Governors for Sharples Primary School since 2016	None
Mrs L. Gregory (Co-opted)	December 2025	Leadership, Management & Effectiveness Risk & Audit		None	None	None
Mrs L. Hart (Co-opted)	July 2023	Leadership, Management & Effectiveness	Trustee Board Member, Chair of LME	Deputy principal- MAT development	The sixth form college – Bolton	None
Mrs J. Head (Co-opted)	March 2024	Standards	Trustee Board Member, Literacy, Geography, Pupil Premium	None	Chairperson at Bolton Historical Association since Sept 2018	None
Headteacher		All	Trustee board member	None	Governor at Bolton sixth form college	None
Mr J. Heyes (Co-opted)	July 2023	Standards Risk & Audit	Trustee Board member Vice chair of Governors Chair of R&A	None	None	None
Mr J. Shepley (Co-opted)	July 2023	Leadership, Management & Effectiveness	Trustee Board member Chair of Governors Partnership of Governors	Bolton YMCA - Chair of the board since 2015 Bolton Community Leisure Trust - Trustee and Secretary since 2016 Rivington Heritage Trust - Trustee since 2018 Rotary Club - Member since 2002	Lever Edge Primary Academy	None

				Chair of Governors at Lever Edge Primary Academy.		
Mrs L Smith	August 2023	Standards		Company Director of JJLC Engineering Design - Since 2013 Company Director of Design Services Consultants - Since 2013	None	None
Dr L. Vallance (Parent)	September 2022	Standards	Trustee Board member, Chair of Standards, Target setting	None	Bolton & Bury Citizens Advice	None
Ms F Vepari	November 2026	Risk and Audit		None	None	None