

Annual Governance Impact Statement for the Multi-Academy Trust School year 2025-2026

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

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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: 10
Parent Trustees: 2
Staff Governors: 1
Co-Opted Governors: 1
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 2024/2025 school year

Sharples had a visit from Ofsted on the first day in January. The whole team pulled together to ensure that the two-day visit was maximised, to show the inspection team how truly outstanding our work is here at Sharples. The outcome was the best we could've hoped after the changes installed by the new government to remove gradings, and we were

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judged as “significant improvement in all areas”, with the subsequent full report highlighting no areas for improvement.

Year 10 went out on their work experience placements in February and it was a huge success, with lots of positive feedback about our students. Finding work placements for over 240 students is extremely challenging, but worth it, and our Careers team work tirelessly to ensure that our students have access to the best opportunities to enable them to access their next steps after Sharples.

Premises

The school has four new EV charging points for both staff and visitors.

The all-weather courts have been re-tarmacked and lined as netball courts. The courts were covered in a purple non-slip surface during Easter 2024. This gives PE another all-weather surface to use.

A new canopy has been fitted on the Y7 playground which will give much needed shelter during break time throughout Winter and Summer. Each year group now has a covered area. New outdoor furniture has also been procured for the Year 7 and fitted under the canopy.

Continued Focus for 2025-2026

We have recruited new members to the board to replace some of our valued governors who have now left, and have provided support & 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

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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.

Celebrating school successes

We are very proud of the achievements of our Year 11 school leavers who achieved excellent results which are our best ever. This showcases, once again, our determination to maximise the progress of every child in our care. Our Progress 8 score is +0.82 which places us in the top 3% of schools nationally. Behind the results there are many individual success stories and it is extremely rewarding to see our school leavers embarking on ambitious Post 16 Pathways.

Sharples is extremely proud to win the Pearson National Teaching Silver & Gold 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.

Ofsted Inspection: We were absolutely delighted when the Lead Inspector congratulated us whilst evaluating that the school has significantly improved in all areas since the last inspection. In addition, we received no areas for improvement.

<https://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/OfstedReportFeb2025a.pdf>

In addition to our excellent classroom provision, we work hard to ensure that our students have access to high quality enrichment activities. This term our Duke of Edinburgh Programme has once again got off to a flying start with record numbers of students signing up for both the Bronze and Silver Awards.

Our Year 8 Panathlon Team took home medals in both the Boccia and Kurling tournaments and in May Sharples Storm Boccia team came second in the regional finals!

In June we were awarded the UKLA Literacy School of the Year!

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Specialist Schools and Academics Trust
Cultural Diversity
Quality Standard



SPACE
EDUCATION
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School Activities

Students have enjoyed a wealth of opportunities this academic year including over 50 clubs for Y7 and Y8 students from darts to a jewellery club.

95 Year 11 students traveled to Barcelona, and the first ever Library Lock-in Sleepover events for girls and boys ran on Friday evenings.

In November, we held our first Sharples Association PTA meeting since Covid with lots of new members joining. We are working hard to improve our Parental Engagement this year with lots of useful feedback to improve our school. We are currently setting up a new section of our school website to provide feedback and actions following these meetings and I look forward to sharing this with you early next term.

We have organised a number of excellent trips for students over recent weeks, with Y10 maths pupils visiting world renowned accountants Price Waterhouse Coopers, and Y11 GCSE History students supplementing their studies with a trip to Hardwick Hall and 95 Year 11 students visited Spain for a week.

Our students have engaged with the wide range of opportunities presented to them, including the two Year 7 Sleep at the Deep trips, Year 10 Work Experience, a West End weekend away in London to see The Lion King and the trip to Seville.

STEM Week was the 10th-14th March and the theme was "Change and Adapt". There were learning activities across the school based on this theme during lessons and we hosted a "The Food Showdown" with chefs competing with each other live for the most student votes.

The students studying Performing Arts put on a fantastic array of shows. The students performed Oliver in April 2025 which had some fantastic reviews from Governors & Parents.

In June Sharples' Storm Bocchia team came 3rd overall in the regional finals yesterday! The scores were really close and the pupils represented Sharples very well.

Fundraising

World Mental Health Day in October saw us raise over £500 for the charity Young Minds. Our annual Diversity Day celebrations were once again record breaking, with over £2000 raised for Oxfam and Sharples held the Family Iftar which raised £236 for the Charity Deathblind UK.

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A Science Specialist College
Learn • Dream • Achieve

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://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/category/newsletters/>

Governors always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents

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Appendix 2 - Register of Interest 2025-2026

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 A Harbot-Taylor	July 2029	LME		None	None	None
Mr I Maka	July 2029	LME		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. 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 Community Leisure Trust - Trustee and Secretary since 2016 Rotary Club - Member since 2002 Chair of Governors at Lever Edge Primary Academy.	Lever Edge Primary Academy	None
Mr M Slater	December 2024	Standards		Deputy Head at Sharples Primary School	None	None

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