

Annual Governance Impact Statement for the Multi-Academy Trust School year 2026-2027

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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Specialist Schools and Academics Trust

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Distinction | 2024 - 2025



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: 11 including 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 2025/2026 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 over 30 different clubs.

The Duke of Edinburgh is continuing with more & more students signing up for this great event.

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Sharples wants to focus on Parental engagement with lots of events in the pipeline for 2026/27 academic year.

Premises

The school's heating system has been upgraded for a more comfortable environment throughout the classrooms and offices.

The Y7 toilets have been refurbished to allow for individual cubicles with separate washing facilities in each.

Sharples have a new audio system installed across the school. This replaces our traditional school bells, and provides a calm and more informative way of alerting students to lesson changeover and important announcements.

The reception area has been refurbished to create a more welcoming, warm, and secure environment for the school community.

Continued Focus for 2026-2027

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..

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Celebrating school successes

We are very proud of the achievements of our Year 11 school leavers who achieved excellent results. The National School Performance Tables were released by the DFE and we are delighted that Sharples came out with record breaking results. As a school community we work extremely hard to ensure that students leave us at the end of Year 11 with the necessary qualifications and skills to take the next step of their journey with confidence. I would like to recognise and thank our staff for their ongoing support of all students at Sharples.

<https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/26481656.sharples-school-celebrates-record-break-gcse-results-day/>

Sharples was awarded Leading Parent Partnership Award, which recognises outstanding engagement with all groups of parents. Achieving this accolade is testament to the hard work of our team, which has included establishing a thriving PTA and holding regular Parent Forum meetings for our families to provide support and feedback to the school.

Sharples played host to the Remembrance Day Service. The Royal British Legion Club of Astley Bridge organised the event, which saw a marching band make their way from Belmont Road to Sharples, followed by the local scout and guide groups, members of the local community, and the parade was greeted at the school gates by a guard of honour of our Gold Tie School Leaders. The service was moving and respectful, with beautiful performances by the Sharples Choir. We are honoured that our school was able to provide this occasion for our community and we look forward to continuing the tradition for years to come.

We were delighted to see our very first entrants in the Bolton heats of The Battle of The Bands, held at The Roundhouse music venue. "Five Blind Chickens", comprising Year 8 musicians and the Year 9/10 group "Stave and Close. Both bands put on a great performance and it was a great experience for them to perform in a professional venue. We now have over 100 students taking part in weekly musical instrument lessons.

In another first for Sharples, our Senior Youth Speaks team won the Bolton heat of this national competition, beating off fierce competition from other schools including Bolton School. The students were confident, well prepared and performed brilliantly.

Fundraising

We celebrated our third annual Diversity Day and raised almost £2000 for Oxfam. We also donated over 50 shoeboxes packed with toys and gifts to the Rotary Appeal for children who may not receive gifts at Christmas. Sharples Christmas Markets raised vital funds to support the work of the school, including the library refurbishment.

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The Sharples Way

The Sharples Way, promotes that students are:

- **S**mart in presentation and conduct
- **H**ardworking in their efforts
- **A**mbitious in their aspirations
- **R**espectful towards others
- Showing **P**ride in themselves and their community
- **R**eady to Learn
- **S**triving for Excellence
- **D**emonstrating Self-discipline

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 2030	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	March 2029			None	None	None
Mr S Gija (Parent)	October 2027	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)	September 2027	Leadership, Management & Effectiveness	Trustee Board Member, Chair of LME	Deputy principal- MAT development	The sixth form college – Bolton	None
Headteacher		All	Trustee board member	None	Governor at Bolton sixth form college	None
Mr J. Shepley (Co-opted)	September 2027	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 2028	Standards		Deputy Head at Sharples Primary School	None	None
Mrs L Smith	September 2027	Standards		Company Director of JJLC Engineering Design - Since 2013 Company Director of Design Services Consultants - Since 2013	None	None
Dr L. Vallance (Parent)	September 2026	Standards	Trustee Board member, Chair of Standards, Target setting	None	Bolton & Bury Citizens Advice	None