

2026-27 Edition

V1

Sharples School



FAMILY HANDBOOK

Core Purpose

We have prepared this handbook so that our families can access to all of the information necessary to make their time working with Sharples as easy - and rewarding - as possible.

Further information is also accessible using our website.

If you require further support please contact office@sharplesschool.co.uk and a member of the team will respond as soon as possible.

If you require this document in an alternative format or language, please let us know (a.heaton@sharplesschool.co.uk) and we will do our best to accommodate you.

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Get in touch



Hill Cot Road, Bolton, BL1 8SN



office@sharplesschool.co.uk



01204 333 253



Join our **PTA:**

s.curzon@sharplesschool.co.uk

Join our **Parent Forum:**

a.heaton@sharplesschool.co.uk

Join our **SEND Forum:**

s.booth@sharplesschool.co.uk

Our School Vision

Learn. Dream. Achieve.

The **SHARPLES** Way

SMART

Arriving to school and lessons on time, in full correct uniform with all equipment ready, and presenting yourself neatly.

HARDWORKING

Consistently engaging fully with classwork and homework, showing effort and resilience in every lesson.

AMBITIOUS

Aiming high in your learning and behaviour by striving for excellence and taking every opportunity.

RESPECTFUL

Treating staff, peers and the school environment with respect, and following all instructions calmly and cooperatively.

PRIDE

Taking pride in your work, conduct and school community by maintaining high standards in everything you do.

LEARN

Making it possible for yourself and others to learn by listening attentively, staying on task and avoiding disruption.

EXCELLENCE

Achieving your personal best academically and behaviourally, and contributing positively to the school's culture of high expectations.

SELF-DISCIPLINE

Demonstrate sensible behaviour at all times and make the correct decisions without being prompted or needing to be constantly reminded.

A Warm Welcome to Sharples School

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself and welcome you to our school. My name is Caroline Molyneux and I am very proud to be the Headteacher of Sharples School. I have been at Sharples School for over ten years now, and it is a privilege to be given the opportunity to lead the school through its next chapter.

Our main aim is to provide first class learning and teaching opportunities every single day to ensure that all of our students make significant progress from their individual starting points.

At Sharples, we demonstrate a daily commitment to our 'high expectations and no excuses' culture as we prepare our young people for the challenges of a rapidly changing world. We promote the values of resilience and hard work which has ensured that standards have risen and continue to rise every year. We will make no apologies for maintaining those expectations.

All students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and conduct. Discipline in the school is firm and fair to ensure an orderly and effective learning atmosphere. In return we expect high standards of work, behaviour and uniform. We take pride in the positive partnership we have with parents and carers. We believe that by home and school working together we can provide the very best opportunities for all our students and bring out the best in your child, both academically and socially.

Ms Caroline Molyneux,
Headteacher

Our Term Dates

2026-2027

Autumn Term

3rd September & 4th September: Year 7 only

7th September: Term starts for Years 8-11

25th September: INSET day (school closed for students)

23rd October: Last day of autumn term 1

26th - 30th October: Half Term Break (school closed)

2nd November: School re-opens for all students

4th December: INSET day (school closed for students)

18th December: Last day of autumn term 2

21st December - 1st January: School Holidays

Spring Term

4th January: School re-opens for all students

12th February: Last day of spring term 1

15th - 19th February: Half Term Break (school closed)

22nd February: School re-opens for all students

25th March: Last day of spring term 2

28th March - 9th April: School Holidays

Our Term Dates cont.

2026-2027

Summer Term

12th April: School re-opens for all students

3rd May: Bank Holiday (school closed for students)

28th May: Last day of summer term 1

31st May - 4th June: Half Term Break (school closed)

7th June: School re-opens for all students

19th July : INSET day (school closed for students)

20th July : INSET day (school closed for students)

20th July: Last day of summer term 2

20th July - TBC: School Holidays

Meet our Senior Leadership Team

Ms C Molyneux - Head Teacher



Mr L Savage - Deputy Head Teacher
In charge of curriculum and standards
Senior Link for Year 11

l.savage@sharplesschool.co.uk



Mrs C Wood - Deputy Head Teacher
Safeguarding Lead
In charge of pastoral and inclusion
(inc. attendance issues)

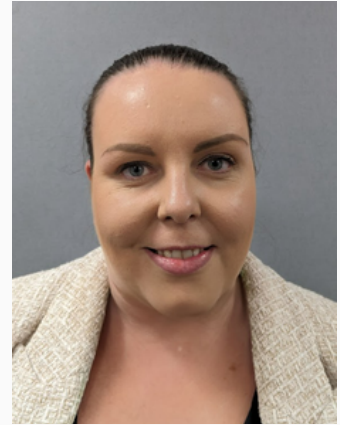
c.wood@sharplesschool.co.uk



Meet our Senior Leadership Team

Mrs J Thomas - Special Educational Needs
Co-ordinator (SENCo)
Assistant Head
Senior Link for Year 7

j.thomas@sharplesschool.co.uk



Mrs F Khan - Assistant Head
Senior Link for Year 8

f.khan@sharplesschool.co.uk



Miss S Curzon -
Senior Link for Year 9

PTA Co-ordinator

s.curzon@sharplesschool.co.uk



Meet our Senior Leadership Team

Mr S Jackson
Senior Link for Year 10

s.jackson@sharplesschool.co.uk



Ms N Ayub
Lead for Teaching and Learning

n.ayub@sharplesschool.co.uk



Ms C Pedder - Director of Finance



Our Pastoral Team

Mrs J Roberts

Year Co-ordinator for Y7

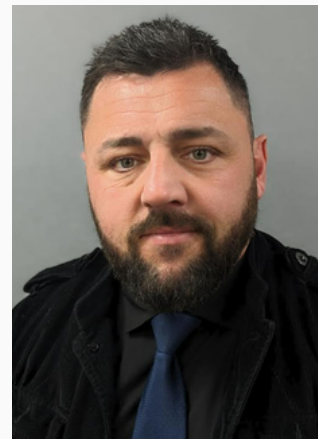
j.roberts1@sharplesschool.co.uk



Mr N Sharples

Year Co-ordinator for Y8

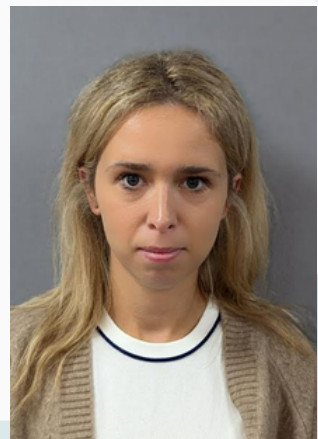
n.sharples@sharplesschool.co.uk



Mrs E Taylor

Year Co-ordinator for Y9

e.taylor1@sharplesschool.co.uk



Our Pastoral Team

Miss L Edwards-Edge

Year Co-ordinator for Y10

l.edwardsedge@sharplesschool.co.uk



Miss B Chisholm

Year Co-ordinator for Y11

b.chisholm@sharplesschool.co.uk



Mrs S Whewell

Attendance Officer

attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk

Email Mrs Whewell to notify school of absences



Other Key Staff

Miss S Booth

Assistant SENCo

s.booth@sharplesschool.co.uk



Mrs O Banner

Careers Officer (IAG)

o.banner@sharplesschool.co.uk



Mrs A Heaton

Parental Engagement Co-ordinator
Parent Forum Lead

a.heaton@sharplesschool.co.uk



Using My Child AT School (MCAS)

Sharples uses 'My Child At School' as our online platform to communicate and engage with our parents and carers. This is often referred to as 'MCAS'. Login is available at:

<https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin>

Assistance with your login can sought be emailing Mr S Jackson at:

s.jackson@sharplesschool.co.uk

MCAS gives you real-time access to your child's information. For example, you can view their academic timetable and attendance, their dinner account, pay for trips and see daily notifications from school using the MCAS platform. You might wish to download the mobile app (available on iOS and Android platforms) to access the platform using your mobile phone.

Summary of the My Child At School platform:

- MyChildAtSchool.com enables parents to **access their child's information**, promoting communication between both schools and parents, and parents and their children
- All the **data is in real time** so a parent can instantly see whether his/her child is in school now
- Ability to **manage payments online securely** for all kinds of school activities – Trips, Dinner money
- **Parents can update their personal contact details** online so that the school always has their most up to date information
- **Fully GDPR compliant** with option to collect Parental consent/allow parents to revoke consent

Locker Rentals at Sharples

Students are able to rent a locker for the school year by registering with our suppliers **Perfect Lockers** at **www.locker.rentals**.

From September 2026 the cost per locker per school year is **£23.00**.

Payment should be made online, as follows:

1. Visit www.locker.rentals or dial 0845 880 2426
2. If using the website, create a log in
3. Select 'Sharples School'
4. Select academic year '2026/27'
5. Select the correct school year for your child
6. Select a locker number
7. Complete your child's personal details
8. Pay for your locker

To avoid disappointment, we recommend booking your locker as soon as possible for the next academic year.



Our School Culture

Uniform expectations

School uniform marks our students out as members of our school community. A uniform ensures that all students are dressed appropriately and safely for school activities and removes any worry or concern amongst students that they have the most fashionable or up-to-date clothing - everyone is dressed in the same way.

All students are expected to dress in full school uniform at all times. This includes:

- A Sharples-branded blazer.
- A school tie knotted at the appropriate length.
- A white school shirt, tucked in, with top button fastened.
- Plain black trousers or Sharples-branded skirt
- Plain black shoes that can be polished (no trainers or boots).
- Black, unbranded socks (with trousers).
- Black tights (with skirts). Socks may NOT be worn with tights.
- Purple Sharples-branded jumper (optional).
- A bag containing necessary equipment for the school day.
- School lanyard with ID card (photograph facing outwards).
- Where applicable, Sharples-branded headscarf.

We do not permit students to wear jewellery of any kind.

A digital or analogue (not smart) watch is allowed.

Our School Culture

Uniform expectations (cont.)

Students are expected to dress smartly at all times.

If anything prevents your child from dressing appropriately, please direct them to contact their Year Co-ordinator upon arrival to school, who will do their best to help.

Students who refuse to follow our school dress code will be unable to participate in school activities.



Our School Culture

Equipment Expectations

All students are expected to carry with them:

- Black or blue pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scientific calculator
- Green pen for self-assessment
- Board pen for in class mini-whiteboard tasks
- Mini whiteboard

Year 7 only:

- Planner for the recording of homework

PE Kit

- Polo shirt - Black and teal (boys)/purple (girls) with **school badge**. Available only from school uniform suppliers.
- Hooded Sweatshirt - Black and teal (boys)/purple (girls) with **school badge**. Available only from school uniform suppliers.
- Shorts - Plain black with **school badge**
- Socks - Plain black or white.

Optional PE Kit

- Tracksuit trousers - Black with the **school badge**. Available only from school uniform suppliers.
- Waterproof Jacket - Black with **school Badge**. Available only from school uniform suppliers.
- Leggings - Plain black and unbranded.

Swimming Kit

- Swimming - Plain costume/trunks
- Towel

Our School Culture

Attendance

Attendance is vital to the success of our students. When students miss learning it can be very difficult to catch up and puts an additional strain on students and teachers alike.

Like all schools, at Sharples we encourage our students to attend school **every day**. In order to support this, we use a software package called 'Attend' and parents will receive communications via Attend at key points of the year when necessary. This will provide attendance data relating to their child. In addition, attendance can be monitored using the 'My Child At School' app (please email s.jackson@sharplesschool.co.uk for help with this).

If your child is unable to attend school it is important that you let us know as soon as possible by contacting our attendance officer at **attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk**.

Sharples must follow government guidelines relating to attendance. These can be viewed at **www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence** and state that a child can miss school if either:

- they're too ill to go in
- you have advance permission from the school (e.g. for a medical appointment; funeral; etc.)

A holiday is generally not considered a reason for absence and you cannot usually take your child away during term time. You can be fined or face legal action for taking your child on holiday during term time (Gov.UK, 2026).

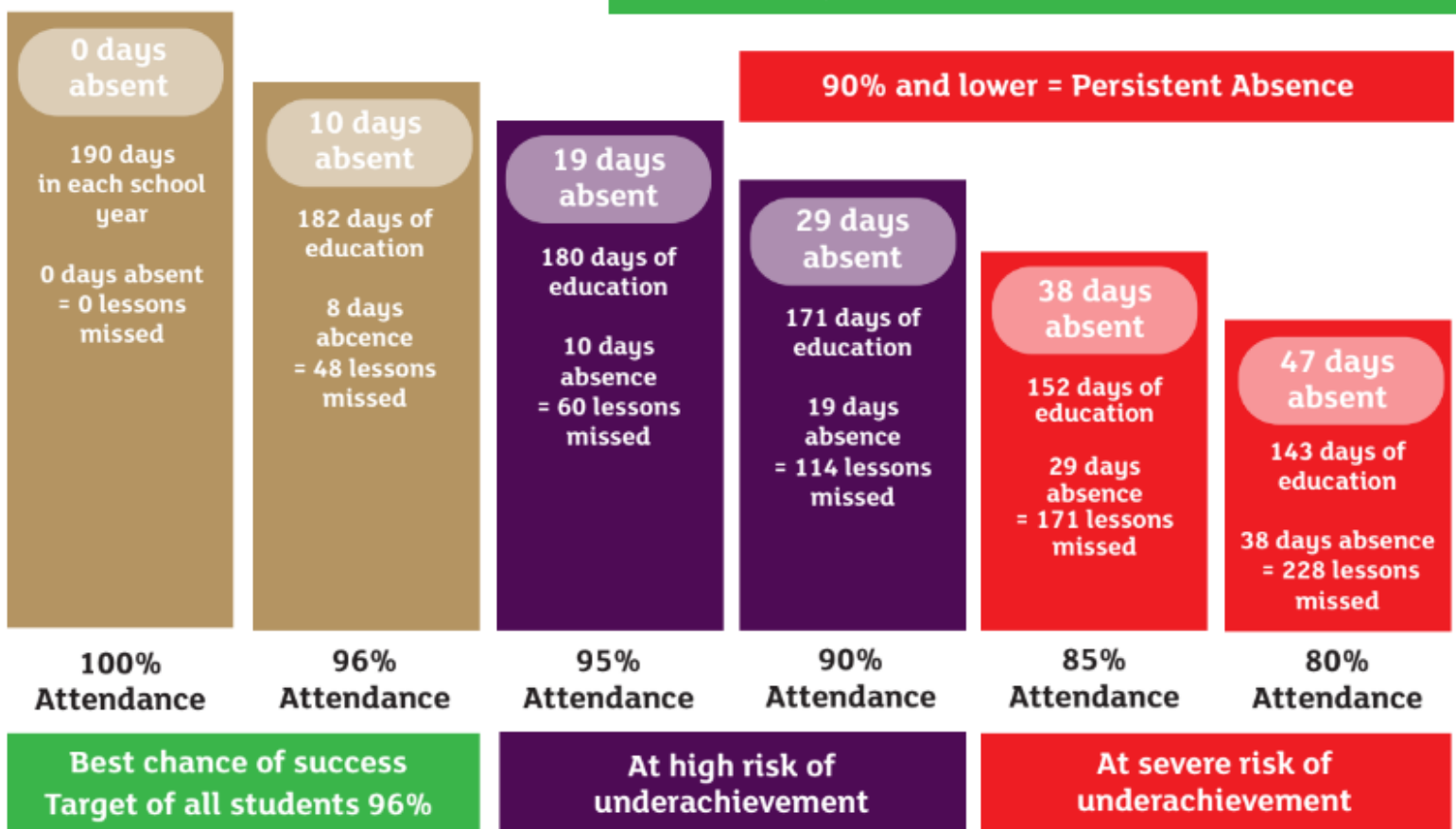
Our School Culture

Attendance (cont.)

Frequent absences add up quickly, leading to hours of lost learning time that can be harmful to your child's progress and future wellbeing:

365 days in a calendar year
175 days not in school for holidays, appointments and exercise.

190 days to make the difference.



Excellent Attendance means ...

being in school 100% of the time, 190 days a year.

Our School Culture

Punctuality

Lateness is disruptive to learning.

If a student is regularly late to school, or to lessons once they arrive to school, they will be placed on a punctuality report to help monitor the situation and support the student in improving.

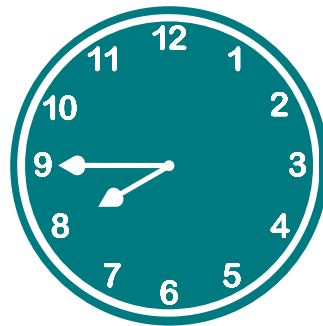
Punctuality can be monitored by parents using the '**My Child At School**' app. Details of key school timings are shown below:

Late & Absent Mark timings



8:40am

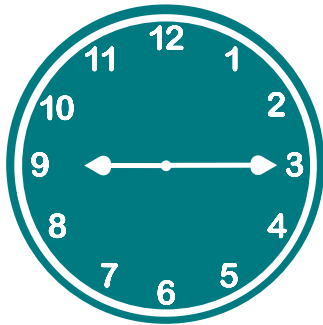
All pupils should be on site



8:45am

Registration

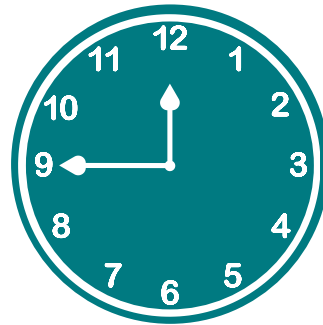
Any pupil arriving after 8:45am will receive a late mark



9.15am

Morning registers close

Pupils arriving after 9.15am will receive an absent mark for the morning session



12.45pm

Afternoon registers close

Any pupil that has not been marked present at this time will receive an absent mark for the afternoon session

Reminder:

The canteen remains open from 8.00am to 8.30am each morning and pupils are warmly encouraged to attend for a free breakfast. During this time, Chromebooks for homework, reading books and board games are also available for pupils to use.

Arrival to school later than 9.15 will result in a half day absence.

Leaving prior to 12.45 will result in a half day absence.

Our School Culture

Our Reflection Unit

'Our RU is designed to manage behaviour and provide pastoral support as an alternative to suspension.

Managed by Mrs Gregory, our Inclusion Manager, the unit temporarily removes students from regular lessons to protect the learning environment for the majority while keeping the individual in school. In the IEU, students maintain academic continuity by completing their class work whilst under close supervision and engaging in structured reflection tasks.

The ultimate goal is a successful, sustainable return to regular classes.



Our School Culture

Our School Counselling Service

At Sharples we are proud to promote positive mental health at all times and recognise that mental health is a part of overall health and wellbeing.

Our counselling team is made up of two counsellors, Gillian and Mike, who are accessed through a referral system. Referrals can be made via parental request, school discussion with parents, school referral or by student self referral. Once the referral has been made, the student is placed on a waiting list and a counsellor will pick them up once a session becomes available.

A contract is made between the student and counsellor, which is explained in full before sessions begin. This gives the student autonomy regarding what they choose to share in their sessions. Confidentiality is explained in the first session, highlighting that where safeguarding issues are raised, school policies must be followed so that the student is protected.

An assessment is also used to let the student know how they feel at the beginning and at the end of the journey.

This allows the student, school and everyone involved in the counselling experience to know how effective the counselling session has been.



Our School Culture

Our Home Learning Programme

This is homework. All students receive additional learning to be completed at home. This is designed to support the learning that happens in school and begins in year 7 with shorter tasks that embed organisational skills that will help foster a culture of independent learning later on.

By the time students reach year 11 they should be confident, independent learners, having built up the stamina to complete revision and examination preparation each evening to ensure the best possible outcomes at GCSE-level.

Home learning focuses on retrieval practise to help ensure that students are able to recall key information relating to the topics they are studying. Students require a quiet area in order to complete their work. If this is not possible at home, students are encouraged to make use of school facilities, including the library and computer rooms, which are available on a rota displayed in form rooms.

Year 7 students are required to record their home learning in their planner, which should be monitored by parents/carers.

Should you have a question or query relating to home learning, **please use the Form on our website to get in touch with the appropriate member of staff.**

The bottom of the page features a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping hexagons in various shades of teal and light blue, creating a modern, geometric pattern.

Our School Culture

Our Home Learning Programme (cont.)

We use a variety of online platforms to deliver our home learning programme:

Platform	Access Details	Used by the following subjects
Educake	www.educake.co.uk	Business Computer Science English (Y7-10) Science
Sentence Builders	www.sentencebuilders.com	French Spanish
Google Classroom	Students should log into their school google account and use the app to access this.	Art KS3 Citizenship Computing Geography History PE Religious Studies Technology (food/textiles)
Seneca Learning	www.senecalearning.com	GCSE Citizenship
Mathswatch	www.mathswatch.co.uk	Maths (log in using your google account)
Focus on Sound	portal.focusonsound.com	Music

In the majority of cases, students will need the own **login** and **password** to access their accounts. **Please email their teacher for help if necessary.**

Our School Culture

Our Home Learning Programme (cont.)

Home learning is set according to a timetable. When a student does not complete their home learning:

1. A warning is given in the first instance.
2. An N2 is issued.

An N2 is an after school detention that will be administered within the department where the homework is due. At least 24 hours notice will be given before the N2 is required to take place. Department N2s take place according to a rota that is updated at the start of each academic year.

The home learning timetable is updated termly so that all subjects are covered in full.

If you have a query about home learning, it is often best to email your child's classroom teacher directly. However, you can also also request help here:

<https://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/enquiry/>



Our School Culture

Rewards and Sanctions

At Sharples we offer a comprehensive, student-driven programme of rewards, starting with rewards assemblies and prize draws, and culminating in the end of year trip. Our rewards system revolves around a system of ACE points which can be awarded by staff for academic achievement and community service. Students receive certificates, badges and prizes for successfully gaining points throughout the school year.

Students who display an outstanding talent or are involved in something that is truly special are invited to sign the Head Teacher's Book of Honour, making them a lasting part of Sharples history.

At Sharples, we know that people can make mistakes. To help student stay on track, we use a warning-based system to enable self-management and a positive approach to behaviour management. To ensure all students engagement with their lessons in a positive manner, we begin every lesson in silence with a retrieval task. Staff use a consistent framework to manage behaviour:

First warning

Failure to improve after warning - N1: 10 minute detention at break/lunch

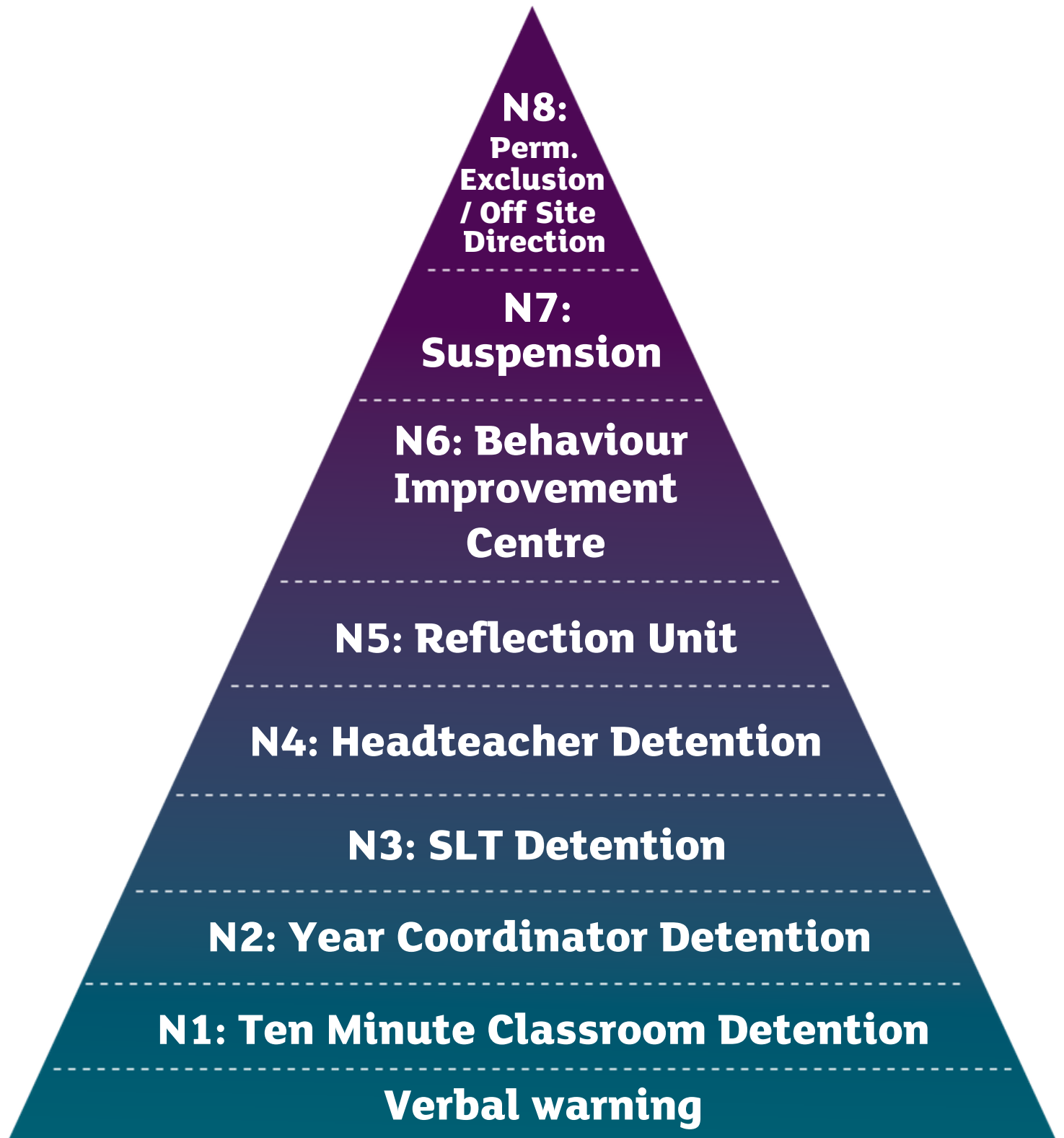
Failure to improve/more severe infringement - N2: detention after school

Further escalation - N3: detention with Senior Leader (Friday after school)

Additional sanctions, such as time spent in our internal exclusion unit or meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss behaviour, will be implemented as necessary. A system of reports for monitoring of behaviour is also used as appropriate.

Our School Culture

Our School Behaviour Pathway:



Our School Culture

School-based Rewards

Our rewards pathway is based on a points system. At Sharples, rewards points are known as ACE points.

Badges are awarded to students who achieve set numbers of rewards points, as follows:

Badge	Criteria	Further Information
Weekly award	Each week the person who is awarded the most ACE points in each form receives a queue jump pass - collect three and trade them in for a badge.	ion 2025-26, 66 of these badges were awarded
ACE ACE Bronze ACE Silver ACE Gold ACE Platinum ACE Diamond	At the end of every term, the top 15 students in each year group receive a voucher for a badge. If they already have a badge, they move up to the next tier.	Criteria: • No negative points • Attendance above 95% (unless there are extenuating circumstances)



The Headteacher's Award can also be issued to students who best embody our school code of conduct.

This badge is awarded at the discretion of Ms Molyneux and is not linked to the ACE points system.

Student Behaviour Expectations When Travelling on Buses

Whilst in school uniform we consider students to be representatives of our school and therefore subject to school rules.

It is essential that students always conduct themselves responsibly and respectfully when using transport to and from school. Failure to do so will lead to school sanctions being applied.

We would like to remind families of some core expectations for student behaviour on the bus. These include but are not limited to:

Student Expectations

- No playing loud music or using devices in a disruptive manner.
- No intimidating or bullying other students.
- No throwing food or litter on the bus.
- No making inappropriate gestures or comments to members of the public.
- No distracting or disrupting the bus driver.
- You must pay for the bus service, where applicable.

Any behaviour that puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk, or that damages the school's reputation, will not be tolerated. The following steps will be taken to address any poor behaviour choices.

For further guidance on travelling to school by bus, please visit:

<https://tfgm.com/travelling-to-school>

Student Behaviour Expectations When Travelling on Buses

Step 1

- Parents contacted.
- Reminder of bus expectations.
- One week bus ban.

Step 2

- Parents invited in for a meeting with Year Coordinator.
- Reminder of bus expectations.
- Bus ban for remainder of half term.

Step 3

- Parents invited for a meeting with SLT link.
- Reminder of bus expectations.
- Bus ban for the remainder of the academic year.
- Behaviour potentially reported to the police (anti-social behaviour).

The following operators operate bus services across Bolton. If you have any lost bag queries or complaints please use the information below:

Operator Code	Operator	Contact Details
BGN/BVB/ BDB/BSM	Bee Network	2 Piccadilly Place, Manchester, M1 3BG t: 0161 244 1000 e: hello@beenetwork.com
	Blackburn Bus Company	Blackburn Bus Station, Blackburn, BB1 6HG t: 01254 670583 e: hello@blackburnbus.co.uk
	Stagecoach Cumbria Lancashire	2 nd Floor Broadacre House, 16-20 Lowther Street, Cumbria CA3 8DA t: 0345 241 8000 e: customer.services@stagecoachbus.com
	Vision Bus	Blackrod Interchange, Station Road, Blackrod, Bolton, BL6 5JE t: 01204 468 288 e: info@visionbus.co.uk

Our School Day

8.00 am	Students may enter the dining room only.
8.40 am	Students may access lockers and student toilets.
8.45 am	Form line up begins in a dedicated year group zone.
8.50 am	Form Time begins.
9.15 am	Period 1
10.05 am	Period 2
10.55 am	Break
11.15 am	Period 3
12.05 pm	Period 4
12.55 pm	Lunch
1.35 pm	Period 5
2.25 pm	Period 6
3.15 pm	ALS 1
4.00 pm	ALS 2

School Dinners

Below is an example menu from the canteen (2025-26). Prices are subject to change. Our canteen offers a range of vegetarian, halal and non-halal options. Hot and cold food is served daily. **From 2026-27, student monitors will be reporting back to SLT on a regular basis to ensure that the range of food on offer meets student expectations.**

Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Dish	Macaroni Cheese Served with Salad £1.80	Chicken Burrito served with salad £2.10	Chips & Sausage £2.10	Chicken Singapore Noodles £1.85	Tugo Pizza Slice £1.50
Vegetarian Main Dish	Pav Bhaji served with Naan Bread and Salad £1.85	Quorn Bolognese & Garlic Bread £2.10	Fish Fillet & Chips £2.10	Corgette Curry with Bombay Potatoes £2.10	Chickpea & Lentil Curry served with a bhaji or samosa £1.85
And there's more . . .	Panini £1.85 Sandwich £ 1.45 - £1.85 Jacket Potato from £1.85 Salad Box £1.90 Vegetables of the day - 42p	Panini £1.85 Sandwich £ 1.45 - £1.85 Jacket Potato from £1.85 Salad Box £1.90 Vegetables of the day - 42p	Panini £1.85 Sandwich £ 1.45 - £1.85 Jacket Potato from £1.85 Salad Box £1.90 Vegetables of the day - 42p	Panini £1.85 Sandwich £ 1.45 - £1.85 Jacket Potato from £1.85 Salad Box £1.90 Vegetables of the day - 42p	Panini £1.85 Sandwich £ 1.45 - £1.85 Jacket Potato from £1.85 Salad Box £1.90 Vegetables of the day - 42p
Love Joes	Korma curry sauce & rice £1.90 Tikka curry sauce & rice served with a naan bread £1.90	Korma curry sauce & rice £1.90 Tikka curry sauce & rice served with a naan bread £1.90	Korma curry sauce & rice £1.90 Tikka curry sauce & rice served with a naan bread £1.90	Korma curry sauce & rice £1.90 Tikka curry sauce & rice served with a naan bread £1.90	Korma curry sauce & rice £1.90 Tikka curry sauce & rice served with a naan bread £1.90
Pasta King	Pasta sauce of the day with garlic bread £2.10	Pasta sauce of the day with garlic bread £2.10	Pasta sauce of the day with garlic bread £2.10	Pasta sauce of the day with garlic bread £2.10	Pasta sauce of the day with garlic bread £2.10
Dessert	Fruit Pots 55p - 75p Cake of the Day - 72p Cookie - 50p Large Cold Dessert - £1.10 Hot Pudding 90p	Fruit Pots 55p - 75p Cake of the Day - 72p Cookie - 50p Large Cold Dessert - £1.10 Hot Pudding 90p	Fruit Pots 55p - 75p Cake of the Day - 72p Cookie - 50p Large Cold Dessert - £1.10 Hot Pudding 90p	Fruit Pots 55p - 75p Cake of the Day - 72p Cookie - 50p Large Cold Dessert - £1.10 Hot Pudding 90p	Fruit Pots 55p - 75p Cake of the Day - 72p Cookie - 50p Large Cold Dessert - £1.10 Hot Pudding 90p

Free School Meals

Why register for free school meals?

Pupils who are registered for free school meals will get healthy, nutritious and balanced food at school that helps make sure they're ready to learn and thrive at school.

Is my child eligible for free school meals and the pupil premium?

From September 2026, there will be 2 categories of free school meals:

Targeted FSM – your child may be eligible if you receive:

- Universal Credit and have an annual household income of £7,400 or less
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Your child might also qualify if you have no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

Pupils receiving targeted FSM:

- Can receive free school meals
- Will attract pupil premium funding for the school

Expanded FSM – your child is eligible if you receive:

- Universal Credit and have an annual household income of over £7,400

Pupils receiving expanded FSM:

- Can receive free school meals
- Will not attract pupil premium funding for the school, nor be eligible for other support that's based on targeted FSM

How do I register?

You can apply for FSM on the bolton council portal.

https://bolton.portal.uk.empro.verintcloudservices.com/site/empro-bolton/request/edbens_fsm

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact office@sharplesschool.co.uk

Additional Learning Sessions

To help ensure the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum our School runs an extended timetable for Year 11 students by providing Additional Learning Sessions (ALS) **for all students at no cost**.

At the beginning of Year 11, students are provided with an ALS timetable to enable them to prepare for the rigorous year ahead. Sessions are planned in advance to meet the needs of the students in each group - no two ALS periods will look the same.

Attendance to ALS is tracked to ensure that all students are achieving their full potential and making the most of every opportunity during their remaining time at Sharples. Towards the final stretch, ALS is incentivised and attendance becomes necessary in order to attend the end of year social trip to Alton Towers.

If you have any questions about your child's participation in ALS and how this supports their Key Stage 4 outcomes, **please contact our Lead for Curriculum and Standards, Mr Savage, at l.savage@sharplesschool.co.uk**.



The Sharples Baccalaureate

At Sharples we believe in **taking advantage of every opportunity**. As such, students are encouraged to get involved in school life beyond the classroom.

In year 7 and 8 students are invited to choose from a wide variety of clubs to attend at lunchtime or after school, to build up their Sharples Bacc points and work towards achieving a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum Award.

There are societies in Geography, History and other subjects across the curriculum, we have Debating Societies, Polyglot Club (MFL), Chess and Literature Review Clubs to name a few. All of these seek to develop your child's skills in Leadership, Community Involvement, STEM, Creativity and Sports Participation.

Every term, students are encouraged to achieving a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate by collecting points as they attend clubs.

Students who achieve Gold in the first term are also awarded with the Sharples Bacc Badge:



Careers Education Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG)

Mrs Banner is our full-time Careers Adviser. She has over 25 years of experience in this field and holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Careers Guidance, along with membership to the Careers Development Institute (CDI) - the regulating body for careers professions.

As such, Mrs Banner is perfectly placed to offer impartial and personalised advice and guidance to support the Careers Education programme in school. Her goal is to help students to make informed decisions about their future, including how to:

- Explore their strengths, interests and careers aspirations
- Understand education, training and employment pathways
- Make informed choices at key transition points
- Prepare applications, CVs, personal statements and interviews

Support at every stage

Careers guidance is available at a variety of points throughout your Sharples career:

- Year 9: Guidance to help students choose the KS4 subjects that best suite their interests, strengths and future ambitions
- Year 10: Preparation for work experience, employability skills and mock interviews
- Year 11: Individual guidance to support post-16 choices, including 6th Form, college, apprenticeships and other progression routes.

Our aim is to ensure that every student is equipped with the knowledge, confidence and skills to make successful decisions about their next steps.

Careers Education Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG)

Our CEIAG programme is carefully planned and fully aligned with the Gatsby Benchmarks, giving every student regular and meaningful encounters with employers as well as experiences or workplaces.

Mrs Banner works alongside Mr S Jackson and Mrs N Patel to ensure that we offer the best possible CEIAG available:

Year 7	Introduction to careers Personal goal setting Learning about different roles and workplaces
Year 8	Enterprise activities Careers in the curriculum Careers fair
Year 9	1:1 careers meetings Skills development GCSE options support Developing soft skills
Year 10	1:1 careers meetings Mock interviews Work experience (1 week) Post-16 Pathways research College taster days programme
Year 11	1:1 careers meetings Next steps evening (inc. parents) Application support Transitions planning to Post-16 pathways

Meet our Junior Leadership Team

At the end of year 10, our students are invited to apply for the role of Junior Leader. By the start of year 11 our new Junior Leadership Team is in place to support the smooth running of our school.

Successful applicants are presented with a gold tie and afforded additional privileges as well as extra responsibilities such as carrying out supervision of younger students at lunch, organising events and representing the school in the wider community.

Our Head Boy and Head Girl, supported by Assistant Head Boy and Girl, are responsible for the running of the team.



A message from our Head Girl

Hello, my name is Amaara, and I am the Head Girl at Sharples School. As part of my role, you might see me running around at events or patrolling duties in the corridor; either way, I'm there to help as many people as possible. That means that if you're ever stuck, you can talk to me or any other Gold Tie so that we can try and find a solution to your problem.

When on duty, Gold Ties are there to support you whilst making sure that everything is running smoothly. They do this by spreading themselves around the school during break and lunch, where they look out for any problems and reward those that are doing the right thing.

I believe that supporting you is one of the things that makes Sharples so special. Another important part of our role is the opportunities we are given. Whether this be through the Sharples Baccalaureate or the various events throughout the year, there is always something to keep you busy and allow you to grow further. All the different activities and trips that you get involved with help you to improve skills like teamwork and communication.

This element of communication also applies to your relationships with teachers, as they can only solve a problem if you approach them about it. Although if you find this hard to do face to face, Sharples Safe (which can be found on the school website) allows you to report issues behind a screen, which may make you more comfortable when sharing information. These problems reported are always picked up the next school day and dealt with as though the report is anonymous, meaning no one but teachers will know that you did the right thing.

So, if you ever need help, there are many different ways to get it, whether that be through talking to teachers, Gold Ties or reporting something on Sharples Safe. My team of Gold Ties and I will always be there to support you or answer any questions you may have, so don't be afraid to ask.

A welcome to new year 7 students and their family from our Head Boy

Hello! I am Hayden, and if you or your child is to join us in September I will be their head boy.

So far, my time as head boy, although it hasn't been long, has been jam-packed with responsibilities and opportunities - which is reflective of my whole time here at Sharples.

Your child will hear the words "Take every opportunity" that many times they'll be saying it in their sleep. However, as someone who listened to those words, don't ignore them. The best ability is always availability so never refrain from taking advantage of what Sharples has to offer.

As well as head boy, I am also part of Sharples' group of Gold Ties. Gold Ties are essentially the prefects of the school, and if you, or your child have any problems at all - find a Gold Tie. We have all been specially selected for the role due to our problem solving skills, our reliability, and our understanding of the school.

I will see you in September!



Frequently Asked Questions

Event or Issue	Appropriate Action
My child has lost their bag/PE kit etc.	Email relevant Year Coordinator
My child was feeling unwell before school	Email relevant Year Coordinator
My child has an upcoming medical appointment	Email proof of appointment to attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk
My child is absent from school	Email attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk or telephone 01204 333 253 and select 2
My child is having friendship issues	Email the relevant Year Coordinator
I have a query about my child's detention	Email the director of subject (if known) or office@sharplesschool.co.uk - please state the subject and teacher
My child is struggling with their mental health	Email relevant Year Coordinator
I have a query about my child's home learning	Email the director of subject (if known) or office@sharplesschool.co.uk - please state the subject and teacher
I am struggling to get my child into school	Email relevant Year Coordinator
My child has lost part of their uniform. What should I do?	Email relevant Year Coordinator
I am worried about money in relation to paying for something for my child. Can school help?	Email relevant Year Coordinator

Frequently Asked Questions - cont.

Event or Issue	Appropriate Action
There is a trip coming up and I need more information. How can I get this?	Email office@sharplesschool.co.uk
My family has a religious celebration coming up and my child will be absent.	Email attendance@sharplesschool.co.uk
My child has been prescribed medication that needs to be taken during the school day.	Email office@sharplesschool.co.uk who will forward to our Health Care Worker
My child has told me that they (or a friend of theirs) are being bullied.	Log in to Sharples Safe or email the relevant Year Coordinator
I would like to join the school's Parent Forum	Email a.heaton@sharplesschool.co.uk
I would like to join the school's PTA	Email s.curzon@sharplesschool.co.uk
I need help with MCAS or Student Portal	Email s.jackson@sharplesschool.co.uk

As you can see from the frequently asked questions, our staff try to be as available to parents as possible. This is particularly true for our team of Year Coordinators.

We do aim to respond to you within 24 hours but please bear with us as safeguarding the children in our care is our number one priority.

We appreciate opportunities to speak with our wider community in a polite and respectful manner. Thank you.