

Annual Governance Impact Statement for the Multi-Academy Trust School year 2024-2025

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.

Headteacher Ms A. Webster: headteacher@sharplesschool.co.uk

Admin Office: office@sharplesschool.co.uk

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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: 4
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 2023/2024 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 Y9 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.

Premises

The school has had a full upgrade for all the fire doors throughout the premises. The new heating system is up and running which has made a huge difference across the building.

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Continued Focus for 2024-2025

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

Sharples is extremely proud to win the Pearson National Teaching Gold Award for Making a Difference – Secondary School of the Year. This is for the outstanding commitment to changing the lives of the children they work with every day.

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 7 have now experienced an extensive range of lunchtime clubs and are working towards the completion of their Sharples Baccalaureate. A group of Year 11 students have enjoyed visiting Pompeii in Italy, the trip supported their studies in both Latin and Geography.

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We also celebrated our second annual Diversity Day and raised almost £1600 for Oxfam.

In June, staff and students put in a lot of hard work which enabled Sharples to win the Eco School Award with Distinction.

School Activities

In January, over 150 Year 7 Students enjoyed our new overnight experience 'Sleep at the Deep', they arrived back very tired but with great memories that will last for a lifetime. Throughout this academic year our students have engaged with numerous educational, sporting and cultural opportunities including a Careers Fair for all of our Year 8 students and our annual Work Experience Week for Year 10's.

As usual, our commitment to enrichment offers continues at pace, both within and beyond the school day. This term a group of 20 students visited a Latvian school for a week, this trip was fully funded through the Turing Programme. Other residential trips this academic year included a visit to Paris and a STEM weekend in the Peak District. We have forged further international links by hosting a second annual Spanish exchange visit with students from Seville receiving a warm Sharples' welcome.

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!

As a whole school, we have celebrated World Book Day and also STEM Week with a fantastic range of enrichment opportunities. Our commitment to CEIAG was demonstrated in February with 240 of our Year 10 students engaging with face-to-face work experience placements, the feedback from employers has been excellent and our students have, as usual, been brilliant ambassadors for Sharples. We have also hosted our second Sharples Iftar and it was great to see a number of Governors at that event.

From September 2024 Sharples welcomes a new Headteacher Ms Molyneux. However, it is with great sadness we say goodbye to Ms Webster and wish her well in her retirement.

It has been a great honour to be the Headteacher of Sharples School and I am very proud of everything that our school has achieved. I am equally proud of what our school stands for and our determination to ensure that every child in our care benefits from a first-class education. What has been achieved at Sharples has been done through collaboration, hard work and absolute commitment to our students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Governors, the Senior Leadership Team and the wider staff for the endless support I have been given, it is greatly appreciated.

Ms Webster
July 2024

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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 2024-2025

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	Bolton YMCA - Chair of the board since 2015	Lever Edge Primary Academy	None

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			Partnership of Governors	Bolton Community Leisure Trust - Trustee and Secretary since 2016 Rivington Heritage Trust - Trustee since 2018 Rotary Club - Member since 2002 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

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