Headteacher: Mrs Justine Keeling-Paglia
School Office Manager: Charlotte Vale
Chair of Governors: Mrs Sara Cannon

Email: admin@sheriffhalesschool.org
Website: www.sheriffhalesschool.org

Growing hearts and minds

Sheriffhales Primary School and Preschool (SPSP) Governors' Report for 2024/25

'Growing hearts and minds'

Executive summary

Our school is committed to enabling pupils to achieve the very best social, personal and academic outcomes: growing hearts and minds.

The Requires Improvement Section 5 reinspection on 17-18 June 2025 judges the school to be improved in all areas:

- 2023 Quality of Education – Requires Improvement: 2025 Quality of Education - **Good**
- 2023 Behaviour and Attitudes – Good: 2025 Behaviour and Attitudes - **Outstanding**
- 2023 Personal Development – Requires Improvement: 2025 Personal Development – **Outstanding**
- 2023 Leadership and Management – Requires Improvement: 2025 Leadership and Management **– Outstanding**
- 2023 Early Years Provision – Inadequate: 2025 Early Years Provision – **Outstanding**

The performance monitoring record from the LA School Improvement Advisor to the headteacher 24/25 notes:

- *The school is well organised and projects high expectations*
- *A balanced budget by the end of the year is expected*
- *SEND structures and policies have been significantly improved*
- *There are sound structures for monitoring and addressing poor attendance*
- *The preschool is open and over-subscribed*
- *Numbers on roll continue to increase reflecting the growing reputation the school has forged*
- *Reading is a clear priority*
- *Staff receive regular, on-going training and staff are confident and secure in teaching early reading*
- *Attendance has significantly improved and the school intervenes swiftly to address and support attendance issues*
- *There exists very strong provision for personal development and this is evidently a priority*
- *The Headteacher is acutely aware of the need to broaden pupil's horizons – the curriculum is enriched*
- *Provision for pupil wellbeing is incredibly strong*
- *The school is very inclusive*
- *The governing body provide effective support and challenge*

- *The Headteacher considers that governors are strong*
- *Clear routines support Early Years Foundation Stage. It is language rich and an engaging environment encourages independence and curiosity*

Governors have seen that the school, under the leadership of the Headteacher, has worked with external organisations such as other CEOs, subject hubs and other schools and has consistently engaged to fulfil the School Improvement Plan.

The head is regarded positively by the board and the LA. She continues to have additional roles including the Education Partnership Board and governorship outside this school, and regular attendance and input at local authority leadership panels. Further roles and staff development are well established, particularly in developing mathematics, SEND support and subject leadership, leading to consistently improved outcomes in all areas for all children: the school has benefited from a focus on continuous improvement to children's learning.

The school continues to work collaboratively with local schools to raise standards, including leading inter-school visits and moderation.

The school has continued to grow in size, reflecting the positive reputation of the school in the area, with robust application numbers in Preschool and cohorts filling / full in the rest of the school. The new preschool for 3+ children opened in April 24 and is now over-subscribed. The school environment, already much improved, continues to improve and give an excellent learning space for all children.

The governors have seen improvement in the 4 School Improvement Priorities (SIP) for 2024-25.

This report considers the following:

- **Governors' role**
- **Safeguarding**
- **Finance**
- **Health and Safety**
- **Data Protection**
- **Progress and Attainment**
- **Quality of Education**
- **Leadership and Management**
- **Behaviour and Attitudes**
- **Personal Development**
- **Early Years**

Governors' role

The role of a school governor is important and varied. Governors oversee the school's strategic direction, ensure accountability, and support and challenge the leadership team.

This Governors' annual report looks in more detail at the actions the Headteacher and her directed staff team have taken to ensure that the school has met the outcomes of the School Improvement Priorities (SIP) and statutory / D f E requirements. It is the role of the Governing body to support the school to continue in its development and covers 4 main areas:

1. Ensuring the head has clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

2. reviewing the school's educational performance
3. Ensuring financial resources are well spent
4. Safeguarding

Sheriffhales Primary School and Preschool is a community school and has 10 governors in its Instrument of Government:

- 4 parent governors
- 1 LA governor
- 1 staff governor
- 1 headteacher
- 3 co-opted governors.

This instrument was made by order of Shropshire LA on 27.2.2015.

Throughout this year we have had six governor meetings alongside a rigorous and ongoing monitoring schedule. This means that governors have made regular visits to the school across the year and this has resulted in governors understanding the many curriculum strengths at SPSP. Working alongside teaching staff, governors have supported priority areas for improvement.

Governors have received regular, detailed reports from the headteacher. These reports have been instrumental in enabling governors to provide critical challenge and support. Meetings with subject leaders and the headteacher have allowed governors to understand specific areas and subjects, ensuring that all core areas of responsibility are covered. Through the Governor visits, reports and oversights they have been closely aligned with the School Improvement Plan (SIP). This alignment has ensured that the strategic goals of the school are being met and that progress is being monitored effectively.

Safeguarding

The safeguarding governor has continued to work closely with the headteacher conducting their termly visits to ensure robust practices are in place, resulting in a survey indicating 100% of pupils feel safe at school.

Finance

The finance governor has continued to meet regularly with the Head teacher and Office manager to ensure financial health and support for educational outcomes. The board is satisfied that the school budget is well managed between the headteacher, the office manager and the School Finance Officer. The board has been regularly updated and has recently reviewed the school budget.

Health and Safety

Governors reviewed a number of important School policies and conducted Health and Safety site visits, compliance checklists and training.

Data Protection

Governors reviewed a number of important School policies and conducted GDPR training. Governors are aware a new data protection officer has been appointed.

Progress and Attainment

Governors have been monitoring school data regularly at meetings and have been proud and impressed to see the extremely positive progress pupils have made over the course of the year. Leading to well above national average success across the board. This reflects their hard work and enthusiasm for learning- in addition, of course to the continued dedication and determination of all staff.

Quality of Education

Governors have met with the Head, seen documentation and had discussions with members of staff around the curriculum. The board are confident that the children are being taught a broad and balanced curriculum, rich in variety and cultural capital. The curriculum is coherently planned and implemented to support a strong impact on pupils learning. Governors have also witnessed, through learning walks, that lessons are successfully adapted to meet the needs of all pupils, including those with SEND.

Governors have also been introduced to the unique Sheriffhales 6 curriculum for outdoor learning. This document, and the implementation of it, are bespoke for our children and a wonderful opportunity for them to learn new skills and an understanding of the world.

Leadership and Management (Governance view)

The board of governors has continued to demonstrate great dedication and commitment. New governors have been appointed according to the skillsets needed, ensuring that the board remains effective and diverse. Governors have continued to undertake training to enhance their skills and knowledge, enabling them to provide effective oversight and support. Governors have been regularly present in the school throughout this year conducting visits and participating in events such as the Remembrance Service, Nativity, Christmas Fair, and music concerts; fostering interactions with students to understand their learning experiences. This has been coordinated by the Headteacher, who was keen for us to follow a comprehensive monitoring schedule. These visits have allowed governors to gain a deep understanding of the developments within the school. Reports from these visits have been shared with the rest of the board, ensuring transparency and collective oversight.

Behaviour and Attitudes

It has been a delight when completing monitoring visits, to witness the impeccable behaviour of pupils. Children regularly displaying kindness towards each other. They have respect for each other's opinions and respect towards visitors. Their obvious pride in and enthusiasm for the school is clear to see when attending school events, talking to pupils and visiting all classrooms.

Personal Development

The Wellbeing Governor works closely with the Headteacher, who is a fully trained Mental Health Lead. A mental health policy has been established that is actively supported by the entire school and its governors.

The school has conducted consultations with parents and children to promote a smartphone-free childhood. Additionally, an induction workshop on kindness has been introduced to make the school dementia-friendly.

As part of national requirements, governors complete training in various key areas to support the school. SPSP now has an identified Cyber Security Governor.

The school offers numerous clubs, committees, and positions of responsibility, including interview panels, board representation, school council, and eco committee. The school has achieved several awards. Pupil surveys and frequent subject surveys are conducted to gather students' feedback on their school experiences.

Governors have observed that children feel heard, valued, and contribute positively to their community. Extensive pupil voice has been gathered across subjects and school areas. Governors are confident that children know who to talk to for safety and comfort. The school provides comprehensive support for online safety and social development through a broad range of safeguarding activities and curriculum. Children are very happy and take pride in their school community. Notably, 100% of children reported feeling safe at school. The "No Outsiders" program is incorporated into the curriculum to support teaching and learning around diversity and inclusion.

Early Years

Early Years has continued to develop and expand with our new Pre-school, where staff continue to offer an outstanding quality of education in a fantastic environment that supports the intent of an ambitious curriculum and facilitates support and information sharing for parents. Governors have enjoyed speaking with the children and watching them learn and develop through play.

Conclusion

The 2024/2025 academic year has been a hugely successful one for our school, thanks to the dedication and hard work of the board of governors, the headteacher, and all staff. We look forward to continuing our work in the coming year, ensuring that our school remains a place of excellence and opportunity for all students.