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Growing hearts and minds

Dear families,

Please see the attached annual governors' report. All the governors would like to thank you for your support and wish everyone a pleasant summer break.

Helen Bibby, Chair of Governors

Annual Governors' Report 2025-2026

Governors Summary

This year, like any other, has been a very important one for Sheriffhales Primary School and Preschool (SPSP). Following the 'Outstanding' Ofsted in **June 2025** it has been important to build on that successful and secure foundation this year and to continue to 'Grow hearts and minds' and further develop our amazing children.

The Ofsted judgement last summer was no surprise to the governing body as we have witnessed the amazing progress the school has made since the Ofsted inspection 2023. This has been underpinned by the determined and creative vision of the Headteacher and the ongoing hard work and dedication of all the staff at Sheriffhales.

This report looks in more detail at the actions of the Head Teacher and staff over the last year. Although SPSP is an 'Outstanding' school, it is the role of the Governing Body to enable the school to continue its development and progression ensuring that our pupils receive the very best primary education; by critically challenging the staff on a regular basis.

Our focus for this critical challenge, as Governors, is inextricably linked to the School Improvement Plan and the key evaluation areas identified in the Ofsted inspection framework:

INCLUSION ACHIEVEMENT ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR CURRICULUM AND TEACHING EYFS LEADERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELL BEING

The Governing body is composed of 11 members – myself as Chair, 3 Parent Governors, 1 LA Governor, 2 Co-Opted Governors, 2 Associate Governors 1 Teacher Governor and the Head Teacher (ex – officio)

Over the past year we have recruited new Governors who bring an excellent range of skills; from different areas of expertise including education, local social enterprise and business and trade. These skills compliment already existing strengths contained within the governing body. We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated team of Governors who are able to provide critical challenge and support to the school. I am very grateful to all of them for their ongoing support and enthusiasm.

How has the school moved on from this outstanding Ofsted Inspection?

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

It might be tempting to 'relax' and 'sit back' having achieved such a positive report in late Summer 2025 but the drive and determination of the Headteacher and all the staff means that the school has continued to move forward and progress further this academic year, driven primarily by the School Improvement Plan which has identified key areas for development:

Priorities:

1. To increase quality of handwriting and presentation in all cohorts
2. To develop staff oracy teaching strategies
3. To embed application of PIVATs assessment for SEN learners

This excellence was recognised by Ofsted 2025, when they reported that the 'school is exceptionally well led'.

The Headteacher is highly regarded by the Governing Body and also the LA. She continues to have additional roles outside of school and input on LA -led panels and other governing bodies. This undoubtedly benefits SPSP, having such an informed, conscientious and well-respected leader. This outstanding contribution as an Educational Leader was recognised when the Headteacher received an award for 'Ambitious Leadership; transforming her school into an 'Outstanding' institution' by the High Sheriff of Shropshire in January 2026.

Governors consider that key strengths of the school are:

1. Individualised and targeted support given to all pupils but in particular, considerable work has been on improving SEND provision and in the last couple of years this has led to spectacular results. Ofsted 25 praised the school and stated that 'pupils with SEND work alongside their peers and achieve well. **INCLUSION ACHIEVEMENT**
2. The school works very hard to ensure that children's behaviour and discipline at SPSP is excellent both inside and outside the classroom and that the school behaviour policy is adhered to. Ofsted 25 recognised that there were 'extremely high expectations for behaviour' and that 'pupils behave exceptionally well.' **BEHAVIOUR**
3. The governors recognise that the school places great emphasis on the 'whole child', acknowledging that all aspects of a child's development can be 'grown' and nurtured at SPSP. The outdoor curriculum- Sheriffhales 6- and other co-curricular activities,

from positions of responsibility (School Council, Kindness Ambassadors, Eco Committee, sports representation, Sports Ambassadors, environmental projects and more) embarked upon at the school are celebrated by governors. Ofsted 25 acknowledged that 'provision for personal development is impressive.'

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELL BEING

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Governor roles and responsibilities

Working with the Headteacher, we complete a detailed monitoring schedule to ensure that governors' roles and responsibilities are clear and that we can work alongside school staff to ensure that there are high expectations for everyone in the school community. So, in addition to attending our formal meetings, each Governor has a focus on particular subject areas in addition to the key Ofsted Evaluation Areas. As a group, we regularly review the school's finances and our governance statutory duties regarding Safeguarding and the Equality Act of 2010.

Full Governing Board Meetings take place 6 times a year where we formally review pupil attendance, progress and attainment. This is done through a detailed Headteacher's Report when governors question the Headteacher on the content of the report. In addition, at these meetings there are regular updates on national developments, such as government White papers, Ofsted framework updates, etc. Using the Governor Hub platform and the National College enables us to be kept abreast of education developments, keeping our governors trained and well informed.

As Governors, we comply with statutory requirements and declare any business or work interests that could impact upon the role and integrity of any governor.

We also work with the Headteacher and the teaching team to read and review school policies when and where necessary, recognising that it is important to ensure that they are relevant and up to date.

Governor Monitoring programme

Through our monitoring programme this year, we have been able to ensure that the vision, aims and values of SPSP are maintained . This has been achieved through a range of different visits, including conversations with staff; learning walks; pupil voice, etc

Our visits have included a wide range of activities. Some examples include:

- Subject discussions and scrutiny in French, Music, English, DT, Art, Maths, Science, EYFS, SEND
- Attendance at School Council meetings
- Drama Workshop- Visiting Theatre Company
- Pupil Voice via Eco Club
- Attendance at SATs week

- Maths Workshop- KS2
- Remembrance Service
- Nativity Service
- Attendance at several Star and Superstar assemblies
- Cyber and Online Safety parent meeting
- Safeguarding monitoring
- Health and safety Audit
- GDPR monitoring
- Leavers' Concert
- Review of Sustainability Action plan

Through these visits it is clear to see that the school has continued to make progress and that the staff are enthusiastic and creative in their delivery of the curriculum. Ofsted 25 recognised that the 'highly trained staff deliver the curriculum effectively' and that 'children prosper in EYFS'. These foundations are crucial for the future development of our children. The attainment data – along with attendance and behaviour data illustrates that the school's rigorous approach is applied to all aspects of a child's education. The school works collaboratively with other schools to ensure secure assessment processes and subsequent attainment. Also, as Ofsted 25 reported, ' the school works in partnership with parents to encourage regular attendance'. **EYFS ACHIEVEMENT CURRICULUM AND TEACHING. ATTENDANCE**

In conclusion, as Governors we recognise the continued diligence and conscientious approach of all staff at SPSP. This has resulted in another successful year at the school and we thank everyone for their commitment and dedication.

It is always a joy to visit the school and see the enthusiasm of the children. Their natural curiosity clear to see. They are polite, motivated and extremely well behaved. We are indeed proud of all of them and we look forward to working alongside the staff again next year.

Helen Bibby

Chair of Governors

July 2026