



# Sharples Primary School and Nursery



*Stronger Together*



# Welcome to Sharples Primary School and Nursery



## Foreword: Gemma Partington, Head Teacher, says...

The journey of education is lifelong, and we would be honoured to take a few steps on this journey with you.

### Outstanding curriculum

Our outstanding curriculum combined with our talented professionals creates a brilliant school for us all. We are committed to providing an inclusive, happy, safe and caring learning environment where children can develop a love of learning.

### A nurturing environment

We believe relationships with parents, carers and other schools make us stronger and we embrace learning opportunities. We pride ourselves on nurturing our Sharples family and equipping our children with the skills to be aspirational, resilient and motivated citizens.

### Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children also have the opportunity to also enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular trips and residential visits. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

### Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

### Get in touch

I hope that you enjoy reading this prospectus and find all the information that you need. I would strongly encourage you to visit our school and look forward to seeing you soon. Call us on 01204 333077 or email office@sharples-pri.bolton.sch.uk to arrange an appointment.

## Facilities

We are fortunate to have amazing outdoor spaces at our school that have been developed to support learning across the curriculum. Equally, our classrooms, library, STEM room, hall and shared spaces ensure that the indoors environment is engaging and enriching. Our facilities include:

- Large outside playing field and Forest School Area.
- Outside gym equipment to promote physical activity.
- Separate library building.
- Visually Impaired Unit integrated within school.
- Nursery for children aged 3 up to school age.
- STEM room where children access cookery lessons which includes 9 cookers and hobs.
- Two different trim trail areas for children of different ages.
- Allotment and reading amphitheatre.



# Melih, Kemal and Mahir are happy and making good progress with the help of the kind staff at Sharples Primary School

## Yucel and Seray live in Bolton with their children, Melih, aged ten, Kemal, aged five, Mahir, aged three, and Hakan, aged one.

### Extra support

Yucel and Seray are grateful for all the help their sons have received from the friendly staff at Sharples Primary. Yucel says: "Melih has made steady progress as he has moved up the school. His level was below most of the other children and he wasn't reading when he first started, but now he has reached Year Six he has really caught up."

### Impressive school

Melih started in Year One at Sharples Primary after the family moved to Bolton from another city in England. Yucel says: "Melih had spent the first three years of his life living in Turkey and speaking Turkish and he didn't speak much English. We had considered three schools in this area and chose Sharples Primary because the staff all seemed friendly and helpful."

### Excellent TA

Melih's English was not very good when he first started and he was assigned a one-to-one teaching assistant to help him, Yucel says. "For the first few days he cried a lot. We were worried he wouldn't settle, but his TA was very kind and eventually he got used to it and was much happier, which was a big relief to us. He couldn't understand much at first, but he is a clever boy and he gradually started to understand English and made friends with the other children."

### Keen pupil

Yucel says Melih now pushes himself to do well and is eager to take part and answer questions in class. "He speaks good English now, although he still speaks Turkish at home. We would like him to go to Sharples High School next year and we are confident he will be able to cope there, thanks to the good grounding he has had in primary school."

### Enjoying homework

"Without any pushing from us, Melih will read every night, not just for homework but because he enjoys reading. If he doesn't know a word, he will try to find out what it means. He also likes Maths and likes doing

his Maths homework. Melih loves school so much that, if he is unwell and we tell him he must stay at home, he will say he doesn't want to miss school. He has made some good friends now and enjoys playing with them. He loves PE and enjoys basketball and running because he is very fast," Yucel says.

### Help with speech

Kemal, who is now in Reception, has also progressed a lot since starting at Sharples Primary. "Kemal didn't speak until he was four years old and he was investigated for autism, but the doctors decided he was not autistic. The staff have helped him and he has now started to speak, which is a big step forward. He wouldn't eat anything at school to begin with, and the teachers were all very kind and did not push him, but he has started to eat some of his school lunch now. We can see how much he enjoys going to school now," Yucel says.

### Approachable Head

"Mahir is enjoying going to the nursery at Sharples Primary. He is a friendly child and likes playing with the other children. He didn't cry when he first started and is keen to go every morning. We would happily recommend Sharples Primary to other parents and think Mrs Partington is the

perfect Head Teacher. Every morning she is at the gate to say hello to the children as they arrive. She knows every child's name and regularly asks us if everything is okay."

### Children say

Melih says: "I like Maths and I enjoy school lunches."

Kemal says: "I like playing and singing."

Mahir says: "I like to play with the toys at school."





# School day: settling in



## What are our school times?

Our gates open between 8.40am – 8.50am. There is a 1 hour lunch break, and the school day ends at 3.15pm.

Nursery Times: Mornings: 8.30am – 11.30am; Full time: 8.30am – 3.30pm.

## Wraparound Care

Children can go to either the before or after school session or both. Bookings will be taken so that care can be provided on the days you require it. The breakfast club is open from 7.30am and the after-school club closes at 5.45pm.



## Uniform

At Sharples Primary School we believe that wearing a school uniform promotes a good attitude to schoolwork. It is generally accepted that children who look and feel smart are inclined to develop a good attitude toward their work and, therefore, do their best.

The required school uniform consists of dark grey school style trousers, dress or skirt, a purple polo shirt, a purple sweatshirt/ cardigan with the school logo or a plain purple jumper or cardigan and black shoes. Lilac, purple and white school dresses may be worn in summer.

## School meals and snacks

Our school has its own kitchen for preparing children's lunches. The meals are excellent and are extremely good value. Children may bring a packed lunch as an alternative to school meals. The dining hall is organised like a self-service cafeteria. Children can sit where they like, with friends, brothers and sisters regardless of whether they have a school meal or packed lunch.

Children in Nursery and Reception are provided with milk every day. Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 are provided mid-morning with a piece of fruit.

Please note: if your child wishes to change dinner arrangements, we require half term's notice in writing.

## Free School Meals

All children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One are entitled to a hot meal every day. Children in Year 3 and above can qualify for free school meals if you are in receipt of certain income related benefits.



# Khadijah and Zain are both thriving in the warm inclusive atmosphere of Sharples Primary School

## Zakira and Imran live in Bolton with their children, Khadijah Ali, aged 11, and Zain Ali, aged eight.

### Good values

Zakira and Imran like the values promoted by Sharples Primary School and the way staff reward the children when they achieve them. Zakira says: "When a child does something that lives up to the values of Team Work, Aspiration, Resilience, Determination, Inclusion, Motivation, curiosity and Respect, they get a certificate in assembly and a pouch of hot chocolate. Khadijah and Zain are excited when they come out of school on Fridays if they have received certificates and they ask if they can have their hot chocolate as soon as they get home."

### Inclusive celebrations

The family also like the multi-cultural environment of the school and the way assemblies are held to celebrate different religious festivals throughout the year, such as Eid and Christmas. Zakira says: "Families from different faiths all mix happily together and every child is included and has something to say, which helps to build their confidence."

### Welcoming staff

When Zakira and Imran were looking for a good primary school for Khadijah, they became aware Sharples Primary had a good reputation among their friends and saw that the school had received a good Ofsted report. Zakira says: "When we visited Sharples Primary we thought it had a nice, warm feeling. The teachers were welcoming, the classrooms were nicely decorated with art-work and the pupils looked happy."

### Extra classes

When Khadijah started in Reception, she absolutely loved it," Zakira says. "She enjoyed playing with water and liked the reading corner and going outside to play with the toys. Khadijah is now doing well academically and we are pleased the school support high achievers as well as children who need extra help. Now she is preparing for her SATS, she is being given the chance to attend extra classes after school to help her achieve the best grades she can."

### Breakfast reading

Khadijah loves World Book Day when the children dress up as a character from a story, Zakira says. "You can go in with your child about half an hour before school starts to have breakfast with them and read to them."

There are also some great after-school clubs and Khadijah has enjoyed doing art and cooking. She is being well prepared for secondary school and has been to visit her new school for a couple of hours to see what it's like."

### Responsible jobs

The family like the way Sharples Primary give children responsibilities at school. "Both Khadijah and Zain have been eco-warriors. Khadijah is now a prefect and they are both in the school parliament and go to meetings about the school. She was chosen to go to Bolton University for an eco-event and has played in tournaments against other primary schools doing football and cross country," Zakira says.

### Good teaching

Zain was fine when he started in the nursery at the school and settled in well and made lots of friends, Zakira says. "We thought it was good that they have separate playgrounds for Key Stage One and Key Stage Two children so the smaller ones don't feel intimidated. Zain is achieving well academically and is happy at school. The teachers and TAs are all very helpful and we are pleased they push every child to help them achieve their best."



### Parents considered

Zakira likes the way Sharples Primary involve parents. "As well as holding parents' evenings, they invite you in to look at your child's books and you get chance to ask the teacher questions. The school communicate well with parents using apps and newsletters and send pictures and reminders of dates to remember. They use Twitter to show what the children are doing and keep in touch with emails and texts. We like the way the Head Teacher, Mrs Partington, makes herself visible every morning and welcomes every child and is always approachable to parents."

### Children say

Khadijah says: "I enjoy going to the library session, which I find peaceful and relaxing, and look forward to going to art and cooking club."

Zain says: "I enjoy using the outdoor gym and football area and am looking forward to exploring at the forest school session."



# Curriculum: firm foundations for the future

## Broad and balanced

At Sharples we believe that pupils' learning and development should be at the heart of the curriculum; it should be broad and balanced and equip pupils with the skills necessary to succeed in life after school. Our school ethos is firmly rooted in our values and being stronger together. Our curriculum is designed so that an enquiry-based approach enables children to grow as individuals as well as learners.

## Challenged to succeed

We recognise that pupils should be challenged in their schooling; learning from failures and celebrating successes. We intend for our curriculum to be empowering, enabling pupils to develop their interpersonal skills, creativity and independence.

## Knowledge and development of skills

Our staff value the different ways in which pupils learn and plan lessons to account for these differences; cross-curricular links ensure that pupils can draw upon knowledge from different subjects and understand how they relate to each other and everyday life. Age related expectations combine the acquisition of knowledge and development of skills to create a purposeful and exciting learning journey for every child.

## Three stages of the curriculum

The curriculum is divided into three stages:

1. Early Years.
2. Key Stage 1.
3. Key Stage 2.

## Early Years

Children in Early Years and follow the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Our aim is to provide the children with a play-based curriculum that is tailored for each child's individual needs. We offer a welcoming, safe and secure environment where children's excitement and love of learning can be ignited and developed.

## Developing abilities

We will develop your child's abilities across a range of areas, including Personal, Social and Emotional needs, Communication and Language, Physical Development, Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. Early Learning Goals Teachers select the objectives on a lesson-by-lesson basis, depending on the needs of the children. At the end of the Reception year children are assessed using the Early Learning Goals.

## Key Stages 1 and 2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics.
- Reading.
- Writing.
- Science.
- Information and Design Technology.
- History.
- Geography.
- Art.
- Music.
- Physical Education.
- Religious Education.
- Health, Personal and Social Education.



# Harlie and Hope are happy and settled and enjoying learning thanks to the supportive teachers at Sharples Primary School



## Kristen and Courtney live in Bolton with their twin daughters, Harlie and Hope, aged five.

### Good communication

Kristen and Courtney are pleased their twin daughters enjoy going to school and are making good progress. Courtney says: "We particularly like all the support you get from the staff and how good they are at communicating with us. When we were concerned that Hope's behaviour had changed at home, I mentioned it to the school. They had also noticed that she would watch the teacher rather than looking at the board and we realised she was lip reading because she couldn't always hear what they were saying."

### Showing patience

The couple discovered Hope had lost some hearing and she has now had an operation on her ears. "The staff have let her sit at the front and they take the time to explain things carefully to her now. They will tell me when Hope has done something good at school and I will praise her and give her a treat after school. Hope is now a lot more settled and enjoys school more," Courtney says.

### Helpful recommendation

Harlie and Hope started in Reception at Sharples Primary when they were five. They had attended a nursery at another school and the family had applied for places in the main school but the twins didn't get in. Courtney says: "When they were offered places at a school that was a long walk from where we live, we appealed against the decision. The receptionist at their nursery suggested Sharples Primary to us instead. She sent their paperwork to the school and we were pleased when we got a phone call saying they could start that September."

### Making friends

The twins are now happy in Year One and enjoy mixing with the other children and have made some good friends. "Harlie is good at writing and loves doing Phonics and Hope likes Maths. We are very happy with how they are getting on now. They also both love doing PE and gymnastics. It was a big jump moving into Year One for them but we liked the way the staff gradually decreased the time the children spent playing to do more learning. We think it was a good idea doing it gradually," Courtney says.

### Lovely lunches

"Hope and Harlie enjoy fun Friday when they get to do games during the school day and they also like the school meals, particularly tuna jacket potatoes. I ask them every day what they have had and they seem to like it all, from curry to chicken dinner. It sounds as though the food is very good," Courtney says. "We are pleased there is plenty of space for them to play outside, with one playground for the older children and another for the younger ones, which means they are not all on top of each other. The playground for the younger children has climbing frames, which the twins like to use when they take a break from learning."

### Welcoming staff

"Parents are always made to feel welcome by the school. The staff will answer any question you have and if they don't know the answer, they will find out for you. If I want to know something I speak to the staff when I pick the children up in the afternoon, but if work prevents me from picking them up myself, I ring up. The staff in the school office are always very helpful. Harlie and Hope have liked all their teachers and we think Mrs Partington, the Head Teacher, is fantastic. She is incredibly supportive to everyone and passionate about what she does."



### Children say

Harlie says: "I like playing outside after I have had my dinner."

Hope says: "I enjoy learning about the world and all the different countries."



## Enriched curriculum



### Enriching the learning experience

We provide a variety of extra-curricular activities for pupils that enhance their learning experience. The activities range from after-school clubs, to educational trips and visits. Extracurricular activities are designed to enhance pupils' learning experience, form personal connections between pupils and their peers, and teach skills essential for life after school.



### Visitors

At Sharples Primary School we place a high value on providing our children with a wide variety of experiences beyond the classroom to support their learning and development of their cultural capital. Through our bespoke 'Early Years Journey' and 'Sharples Journey' children will take part in a wide range of educational visits and outdoor adventurous activities. These offer opportunities to enrich the curriculum and increase pupil engagement, enabling children to have exciting first-hand experiences of an array of different topics and environments. We strive to ensure that participation in these will not only support the children's understanding



of the curriculum through memorable experiences that support knowledge acquisition and retention, but that they will also support their development as global citizens with a wider understanding of the world around them.

### Cultural capital

Cultural Capital at Sharples Primary school embraces experience and wider opportunities throughout our primary education. Some of these will be outside of the school walls. The activities and learning we do are not add-ons to our curriculum but instead fundamental learning opportunities for our children.

### Wider opportunities

At school we use a mixture of assembly awareness days, themed events, visits and visitors to deliver the wider opportunities. The impact is that children will have gained the essential knowledge to help them to be thoughtful and aspirational citizens who appreciate and celebrate difference. We have created our Sharples Journey which includes the details of opportunities the children will be given throughout their time at school.



# Harper is happy and enjoying school life helped by the caring staff of the Visual Impairment Support Team at Sharples Primary School

**Gina and Curtis live in Bolton with their children, Lewis, aged 18, Macey, aged 13, Harper, aged seven, and Frankie, aged four. Their eldest son, Kade, who is 23, is away in the army. Harper, who has been blind from birth and has autism and complex needs, is now in Year Two at Sharples Primary and is benefiting from all the resources provided for children with visual impairments.**

### Expert teaching

Gina and Curtis are delighted that Harper loves going to Sharples Primary every day and enjoys all the activities the staff do with her. Gina says: "She loves it so much she doesn't want to come home at the end of each day. She benefits from the constant stimulation she gets at school. The staff are well qualified to teach the visually impaired and she has speech and language therapy and physiotherapy there as well."

### Excellent support

Gina says the family would be totally lost without the school. "The support Harper has received at school has been brilliant. Everyone has gone the extra mile both for Harper and for us. If Harper ever needs anything, I know I can ring up the school and they will sort it out for her as quickly as possible, which is a huge relief to us."

### Lovely environment

Gina and Curtis were first told about the provision for visually impaired children at Sharples Primary by someone who supported the family after Harper was born. "We went to visit the school when Harper was seven months old and we were very impressed. My older children had all attended a different school, but I could tell Sharples Primary would be the right environment for Harper and could meet her needs."

### Kind TA

"When Harper started in Reception, she loved the school immediately. She had a one-to-one TA working with her, who provided her with the care she needed during the day and encouraged her development. Harper was comfortable at Sharples Primary from the very first day. She is a happy child by nature and her TA was fantastic and gave her the time she needed to help her achieve her potential," Gina says.

### Thoughtful visits

Gina and Curtis were pleased during the first Covid 19 lockdown when teachers from Sharples Primary came to visit Harper. "Even though they had to stand at the top of our drive to talk to her, it kept her involved with the school and stopped her from feeling isolated. It was not just one teacher, but a couple of members of staff who knew Harper and they would come about twice a week."

### Good relationships

"Harper loves all the teachers and they all love her. She enjoys everything at school, but particularly likes music and sensory play. She can't use Braille to read and is behind in her development, but she is receiving amazing help from the staff, who have won an award for their work. Being taught alongside other children with visual impairments has been good for Harper. It has helped her to have friends who have similar difficulties. She is provided with transport to and from school and has built up an amazing bond with some of the children she travels with. Her one-to-one TA arrives on the transport to pick Harper up in the mornings and she has a great relationship with her," Gina says.



### Incredible help

"Harper doesn't eat well and is only able to manage a limited range of foods and so I prepare items such as mashed potatoes and gravy, or Weetabix, to send into school with her and the staff get them ready for her during the day. They are all truly amazing and go above and beyond to do everything they can to help us."

### Children say

Harper says: "I love doing music and sensory play at school."



# Clubs, sport and PE, and music



## Wide range

At Sharples we believe that children should be given wide-ranging opportunities to develop their skills beyond the National Curriculum. In order to achieve this we provide a variety of clubs that enable children to further their interests in sports, the arts, STEM and languages.

The extra-curricular offer changes on a termly basis with clubs at lunchtime and after school. We are also very lucky to have links with local schools and sports clubs who deliver specialist provision within our range of activities.

Clubs currently include:

- Choir.
- Dodgeball.
- Gymnastics.
- Archery.
- Tag rugby.
- Creative Club.
- French.
- Football.
- Enso martial arts.
- Quiz club.
- BWFC football.
- Multi skills Dance.
- STEM.

## Sport and PE

We have achieved the gold school mark games award. PE is very strong at Sharples and is delivered by a variety of specialists such as gymnastics and games coaches. Our aim is to develop a love of sport. Our children attend elite and participation competitions so that they can excel. In addition we provide opportunities for our young people to practice and prepare ahead of all their inter-competition experience and give reflection time afterwards in line with positive experiences research.

We have a formal structure to engage our young people through Sports Leaders, School Games Crews or Committees and use them to support our offer. We are very

proud of our achievements in PE. Children can access a variety of clubs either before school, at lunchtime or after school.

## Music

At Sharples we are fortunate enough to have a specialist music teacher – Mrs Tomlinson. She teaches music lessons throughout school which are in addition to music lessons. All children in Year 4 learn to play the Ukulele. Singing is used across the curriculum to help with our learning. We are starting our own school rock band in 2023 where children from reception to year 6 can learn either the drum, keyboard, bass, electric guitar or singing.

# Admissions and getting involved



At Sharples, the school's policy on admissions follows the LA guidelines.

## Application procedure

Offers of places will be sent in April 2023 by the Bolton Council Primary Admissions Department. Admissions to other year groups are made where there are applications for year groups with vacancies. The school has a maximum of 30 pupils per age group throughout the school, although appeals may bring pupil numbers slightly above that number. There are currently no mixed age classes.

If you would like a place for your child at Sharples you will need to contact the Local Authority who allocate all places at: Council's Pupil and Student Services PO Box 53 Paderborn House Bolton BL1 1JW 01204 332 137/43/44.

## Getting Involved

### Governors

The role of the Governing Body is strong in school and consists of parents, staff and co-opted Governors. Governors have a secure understanding of the school and give an accurate account of strengths and priorities. If you would like to be a school Governor please contact our school office to find out more.

### Parent Teacher Association

We welcome all parents to join the school PTA. Throughout the year, events are held to raise money to support the children in school. Meetings are held during the school day.

### Volunteering at Sharples

We are keen to involve parents in classroom activities and have arrangements for voluntary helpers. Parents, and others helping in the school, add significantly to the quality of education and remove some of the pressure from teachers. Both Governors and Teachers gratefully acknowledge this help.



## Letter from a parent

"I was very apprehensive about my son starting primary school. He was on chemotherapy. At times very tired and was also registered as partially sighted. Covid was at its peak not long after he started and the distance learning that he received was amazing. Zoom lessons. A bag full of resources to use. Phone calls to check in and also when allowed they would let him in in a very small class environment to help with his mental health. The relationships he has built with the staff and peers has been phenomenal. I was a bit worried he may have been picked on because of his appearance but at Sharples they certainly value everybody's diversity and embrace people's differences. They had such a good understanding of his vision and mental abilities within such a short space of time and aided his learning for his individual capabilities. Ted has spent long periods absent from school for various reasons and school have phoned to check in on the whole family and have offered support to myself and his siblings too.

"Whilst Ted was critically ill in hospital the staff visited him numerous times often outside their working hours. They have purchased sensory items and other items I would never have thought about and been so helpful. Their expertise and professionalism is something I could never have wished for. The support we have received is exceptional and I am eternally grateful for them going above and beyond for Ted and the family as a whole during his short life.

Thank you."

Leanne Waring





## Our Vision Statement

The Sharples family ensures our children are resilient learners, healthy and aspirational citizens. We will create a love of lifelong learning that extends beyond the classroom as a result of an enriching curriculum. The school community will make a difference by fostering respect and tolerance of each other as unique individuals. At Sharples we aim to...

- Extend learning beyond the classroom, school walls and school day through an enhanced and enriching curriculum enabling all to reach their potential.
- Use the latest technologies to support and enrich learning and equip children with the skills they will need in the ever-changing world in the future.
- Ensure that all members of the school community are safe, healthy and happy.
- Ensure that all children are resilient lifelong learners.
- Be responsible citizens and instrumental in shaping a better world.
- Foster respect and tolerance of each other as unique individuals.

## Core Values

At Sharples we believe that by having a set of core values at the heart of everything we do will empower children to make the correct choices. The core values are linked to a series of characters, which engage and motivate pupils to be well-rounded individuals they are:

- Motivated Mohammed
- Determined Dylan.
- Aspirational Asha.
- Resilient Rebecca.
- Inclusive Insha.
- Teamwork Tom.
- Respectful Ryan.
- Curiosity Cora.



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