

Be Sharp Academy – About Us

Who We Are

Be Sharp Academy delivers high-quality drama and performance education for children, designed to develop confidence, communication skills (oracy), creativity, and teamwork in an inclusive and accessible way. Through structured drama, pupils learn how to express ideas clearly, listen attentively, collaborate effectively, and participate positively in school life.

Background & Experience

Be Sharp Academy is led by Jonathan Walker, a trained educator and professional theatre practitioner. Jonathan studied at London South Bank University and holds a PGCE from Goldsmiths, University of London. He has taught across a range of secondary school settings and brings a strong understanding of classroom practice, behaviour management, safeguarding, and curriculum-aligned learning.

Alongside his teaching background, Jonathan has worked professionally as an actor and director across theatre and television. This combination of education and industry experience ensures that Be Sharp Academy's provision is both pedagogically sound and creatively authentic.

Our Ethos

After seven years in business, Jonathan made a conscious decision to bridge the gap between professional performing arts training and accessibility for all children. Many high-level drama opportunities remain financially out of reach for families.

Be Sharp Academy was created to offer the same core skills, confidence-building benefits, and creative discipline associated with elite training, delivered in an affordable, inclusive, and school-friendly format. Our aim is simple: to help children find their voice, build confidence, and unlock their creative potential, regardless of background or circumstance.

Experience With Young People

The academy's work draws on experience across secondary education, drama workshops, youth-focused performance training, and both formal and informal learning environments. Sessions are carefully structured to be safe, engaging, and adaptable to the needs of different schools and pupils, including those with SEN or who may be disengaged from learning.

Drama, Oracy & the SKIN Framework

All Be Sharp Academy sessions are underpinned by the SKIN framework, which gives pupils a shared language for performance, reflection, and improvement, while directly supporting the development of oracy.

- Space – how pupils use space with purpose, including positioning, movement, and stage awareness
- Kinetics – how pupils use body language, gesture, posture, facial expression, and physical energy
- Interaction – how pupils listen, respond, collaborate, and work respectfully with others

- Narrative – how pupils communicate meaning, intention, emotion, and story clearly

Using SKIN helps pupils understand how to communicate effectively, not just what to say. It supports clear speech, expressive language, active listening, and confident participation. The framework also enables self-evaluation and peer feedback, supporting progression across key stages.

Why Drama & Oracy Matter

Drama is one of the most effective ways to develop oracy because it places speaking and listening at the heart of learning. Pupils practise vocabulary, clarity, expression, and tone in meaningful, real-world contexts.

Through drama, pupils learn to listen actively, respond appropriately, and build on the ideas of others. These skills directly support learning across the curriculum, particularly in English, PSHE, and classroom discussion.

For pupils aged 8–11, drama provides a safe, collaborative space to form friendships, take creative risks, and work towards shared performance goals, building confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of belonging.

For schools, strong oracy supports improved participation, behaviour, engagement, and communication. Drama also strengthens school community through performance, celebration, and parental engagement.

What Schools Can Expect

Schools working with Be Sharp Academy can expect:

- Clear session structure and shared learning outcomes
- Strong classroom presence and behaviour awareness
- Explicit focus on oracy, collaboration, and pupil voice
- An inclusive and supportive teaching approach
- High expectations delivered with warmth and encouragement

Curriculum Structure – Year Map

Autumn Term (Weeks 1–13): Foundations

- Core performance skills, listening, focus, and ensemble rules
- Confidence-building activities and introductory performances

Spring Term (Weeks 14–26): Development

- Technique development and performance vocabulary
- Group work, collaboration, and creative tasks

Summer Term (Weeks 27–39): Consolidation & Performance

- Refining technique and expression
- Rehearsal, performance preparation, and reflection

Assessment & Progress Monitoring

Assessment is ongoing and age-appropriate, based on observation, participation, rehearsal process, and performance. Progress is measured against individual starting points, with verbal feedback

provided to pupils and summary feedback available to schools.

Safeguarding & Inclusion

Be Sharp Academy is committed to safeguarding and inclusive practice. All sessions are delivered by trained staff, with safeguarding policies aligned to school requirements. Activities are differentiated to ensure full participation for pupils of all abilities.

Contact & Further Information

For further details, timetabling, or partnership discussions, please contact Be Sharp Academy via the official website.