

# Opal Curricular Lead for Play

## Job Description



Date: October 2025

Review Date: October 2026

Headteacher signed:

Date:

Chair of Governors signed:            Date  
Line manager/s: Headteacher/ Opal Governor  
Supervisory responsibility: Play Co Ordinator and Play Team

### **Purpose of the Role**

- To lead and champion a whole-school approach to play in alignment with the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) ethos.
- To ensure that high-quality, inclusive, and sustainable play opportunities are recognised, valued, and planned as a central part of children's learning, wellbeing, and development throughout the school.
- To create a sustainable, inclusive, and high-quality play culture that enhances pupils' physical, emotional, social, and creative growth.

### **Key Responsibilities**

#### **1. Strategic Leadership**

- Lead the school's play development strategy in line with the OPAL framework.
- Work collaboratively with other senior leaders to embed play within the school's vision, curriculum intent, and improvement plan. within the school improvement plan.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of play on children's wellbeing, engagement, and learning outcomes.
- Act as a link between the OPAL mentor, school leadership, and staff team to ensure fidelity to OPAL principles and oversee the school's OPAL action plan.
- Ensure that all play-related developments reflect the school's safeguarding, inclusion, and equality policies.

#### **2. Curriculum and Pedagogy**

- Promote the understanding of play as a pedagogical approach that supports learning across all key stages.
- Support staff in integrating play-based approaches into teaching and learning.
- Encourage creative cross-curricular links through outdoor and active learning.
- Model and disseminate effective play pedagogy and outdoor learning practices.
- Ensure that play provision supports the development of skills such as creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, and resilience.

#### **3. Environment and Resources**

- Oversee the design, organisation, and continual improvement of indoor and outdoor play environments.
- Ensure that the play spaces are inclusive, safe, stimulating, and sustainable.
- Coordinate the sourcing, organisation, and maintenance of play materials to ensure a rich, sustainable, and inclusive play offer.
- Work with site staff and the wider community to develop and maintain safe, stimulating play zones.

#### **4. Staff Development and Collaboration**

- Provide guidance, coaching, and professional development opportunities for staff on play theory and practice.
- Lead staff meetings and INSET sessions related to play and outdoor learning.
- Foster a culture where play is valued and understood as central to children's development.

#### **5. Pupil and Community Engagement**

- Engage pupils in the design, development, and evaluation of play provision through structured pupil voice activities
- Promote inclusive, positive play behaviours and inclusion across the school.
- Communicate the aims and benefits of play to parents, carers, and the wider community.
- Lead events and initiatives that celebrate play and outdoor learning across the school year.

#### **6. Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Monitor and evaluate the quality of play provision across the school.
- Collect and analyse evidence on the impact of play on children's wellbeing, behaviour, and learning outcomes.
- Report regularly to the SLT and governing body on progress towards OPAL milestones.
- Contribute to the school's self-evaluation and improvement planning.

This job description sets out the principal responsibilities for the post but does not describe each of the tasks that it may be necessary to carry out. Duties may change from time to time without changing the character of the post or the level of responsibility.

#### **General accountabilities**

A. Be responsible for own safety and not endanger that of colleagues/visitors to the workplace.

B. Work in compliance with the codes of conduct, regulations and policies of the school and its commitment to equal opportunities.

C. Ensure that output and quality of work is of a high standard and complies with current legislation/standards.