

## Long-Term Strategic Planning Role for OPAL Play

**Nominated person:** Robert Barton Headteacher (June 2025)

**Deputy:** Kiesha Mossom (June 2025)

A long-term strategic planning role for OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) in a school setting is essential for embedding high-quality play across all aspects of school life. This role ensures sustainability, alignment with whole-school improvement goals, and continuous development of the play offer.

### **Purpose:**

To lead, embed, and sustain a high-quality, inclusive, and enriching play culture through the OPAL Primary Programme, ensuring it supports the school's strategic vision, values, and development priorities.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

#### **1. Vision and Strategic Alignment**

- Embed OPAL within the school's long-term development plan.
- Ensure play aligns with whole-school priorities (e.g., wellbeing, behaviour, inclusion, physical development).
- Advocate for play as a right of the child and a key component of educational excellence.

#### **2. Policy and Practice Development**

- Oversee the development and regular review of a whole-school play policy.
- Ensure policies (behaviour, SEND, safeguarding, risk-benefit) reflect the value and ethos of play.
- Champion risk-benefit approaches rather than risk-avoidance.

#### **3. Staff Development and Culture Change**

- Lead ongoing CPD for staff on play theory, inclusive play, and positive supervision.
- Build capacity in the team to ensure consistent understanding and implementation of OPAL principles.
- Embed a culture of play across teaching, support, and leadership staff.

#### **4. Resource and Environment Planning**

- Strategically plan for development and renewal of outdoor spaces based on OPAL audits.
- Secure long-term investment and budget allocation for play infrastructure and resources.
- Plan for sustainable material use, environmental impact, and inclusive access.

#### **5. Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Implement long-term monitoring systems for the impact of play on outcomes (e.g., behaviour, wellbeing, physical activity, social skills).
- Use the OPAL audit tool annually to guide improvement.
- Gather pupil voice and community feedback regularly to inform planning.

#### **6. Community and Stakeholder Engagement**

- Engage parents, governors, and the wider community in the OPAL vision.

- Lead play-related communications, celebrations, and events to maintain momentum and visibility.
- Collaborate with external bodies (e.g., OPAL mentors, local authorities) for advice, support, and recognition.

#### **7. Sustainability and Succession**

- Build a sustainable model of leadership for OPAL within the school (e.g., play team, play champions).
- Ensure knowledge, training, and leadership responsibilities are shared and not reliant on a single individual.
- Plan for continuity during staff transitions and changes in leadership.