

St. Augustine's Primary

OPAL LONG-TERM STRATEGY

Supported by the Opal Play Programme

Last reviewed: September 2025

Reviewed termly



1. Commitment Our school undertakes to refer to this play strategy in all decisions that affect children's play. Our school is committed to providing the strategic and operational leadership needed to provide and maintain quality play provision for all of our children.

2. Rationale Our school believes that all children need opportunities to play that allow them to explore, manipulate, experience and affect their environment. We believe play provision should be welcoming and accessible to every child, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, economic or social circumstances, ethnic or cultural background or origin, or individual abilities.

The OPAL Primary Programme rationale is that *"... better, more active and creative playtimes can mean happier and healthier children, and having happier, healthier, more active children usually results in a more positive attitude to learning in school, with more effective classroom lessons, less staff time spent resolving unnecessary behavioural problems, fewer playtime accidents, happier staff and a healthier attitude to life."*

Our school motto is Learning to Serve- Loving to Learn and St. Augustine's believes that better play will help all of our children learn, achieve and thrive. Our Gospel school values of: Compassion, Forgiveness, Service, Justice, Courage, Hope and Love are all supported by the Opal Primary rationale. It is because of this commitment and rationale that we set out a long-term strategy for ensuring OPAL continues to be at the heart of school improvement at St. Augustine's Primary School.



OPAL Road Map/ Long Term strategy

When?	What?	Why?
<p>2025-2028</p> <p>3 year plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish annual patterns of play days for children and for families • Establish annual patterns of staff training for play leaders, teaching assistants, site team, teachers and leaders • Establish termly/annual patterns of OPAL ambassador selections and reviewing of OPAL charter • Embed assemblies for OPAL (moving to a range of leaders from the play team help lead on these each week) • Establish staff induction processes for OPAL • Embed staffing structure for the play team with clear roles, responsibilities and job descriptions. • Ensure INSET days include play leader roles • Embed weekly communications with families for loose parts, introducing of new play zones and regular information sharing of play types • Ensure an OPAL governor is established each year, is active and visits at least twice a year for the purposes of play provision review • Establish annual pupil and family feedback about OPAL and increase the power of pupil voice to build on range of play types being catered for • Improve the profile of OPAL on our website. Create videos of OPAL to share on website and with our community • Ensure the OPAL team meet half termly • Offer play-based 'stay and play' for parents and child afterschool 	<p>Every child at St. Augustine's will show excellent play literacy.</p> <p>All staff who work at St. Augustine's will be well trained in the fundamental principles of play.</p> <p>Families of St. Augustine's will understand the value of play and its place in primary education as a whole.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include other key leaders in play-based teaching and learning improvements –EYFS • Classes/teachers to take a role in planning and creating areas • Plan for fortnightly lessons taking place outdoors in every year group • Fundraising for OPAL resources • Twitter/ social media used to raise profile of OPAL and inform parents • Ensure SEND hubs are accessing and using the areas in curriculum time- timetabled • Develop water pond nature areas • Purchase canopies for shade and shelter 	
5 year plan 2028- 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build annual staff training relating to effective play so that all staff become play experts • Embed OPAL into the curriculum • Embed weekly lessons taking place outdoors in every year group – continue to build regular training and resource bank • Establish bi-annual play-based community event • Offer site for community access e.g. Ark Nursery Offer/after school for regular parental access 	OPAL will have influenced broader areas of the curriculum and overall pedagogy for teaching approaches in every year group. St. Augustine's Primary School site will be accessed by the wider community for play

Areas/ zones	
Mid term vision Sept 2025- 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chalk board area • Clear arts/ crafts area • Improvement to the following areas from classes/teachers: • Fairy Glenn, Explorers Quarry, Water area, Nature zone, Mud Kitchen, Fencing, Cosy Corner, Boat area • Ratchets on tree • Development/ creation of Gymnastics area • Clear signage- maintained and continued • Fire place attached to wall for cosy area

Long term visions 2025-2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pond area• Structures e.g. car, boat- wooden• Prayer Garden• Planting area• Utilise and create an area along the ramp• Walls painted• Permanent canopy structure for shade/protection• Wall climbing