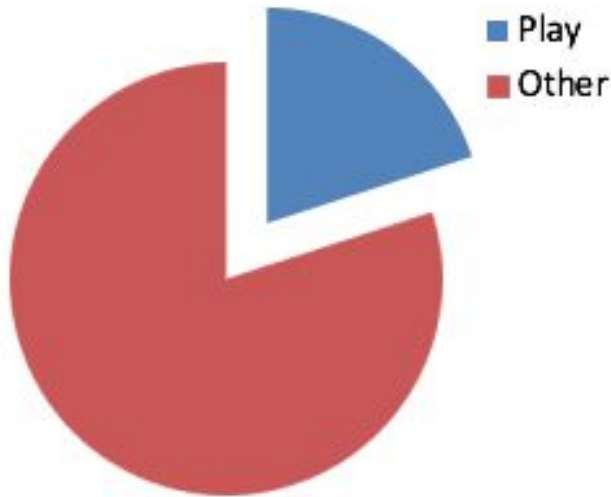




Introduction to the OPAL Primary Programme

Play makes up 20% of school life



Per year, per child

- 231 hours
- 37 days
- 7.4 weeks

In total = 1.4 Primary Years

The benefits of OPAL to children

- Physical activity: up to 100% of girls and SEND more active
- Resilience, perseverance, decision-making and determination
- Creativity, language skills and storytelling
- Mathematical language, engineering and science
- Social and emotional skills
- Environmental awareness
- Improved positive behaviour
- Less accidents and incidents
- More on task on return to class



The benefits of OPAL to schools and adults

- 10 minutes extra learning time per day
- Less time spent on lunch time 'incidents'
- Less indoor 'wet play'
- Less recorded sickness and absences in both children and staff
- Grounds developed for play are also suitable for outdoor learning, forest school and use by the community
- Improved connections with parents and community
- Maximising the use of the whole school site for the benefit of children
- Staff and children are happier!



What does an OPAL school look like?



Testimonials



‘OPAL has revolutionised our play at lunchtime. From being football dominated we now offer an exciting, creative, physical environment which has something to offer everyone. Children are now highly active and interactive; challenged both physically and mentally. There is high quality role play, greater integration across the school and so much creativity. You can build a den, play in the mud kitchen, chat in the stilt houses, swing on the tyre swings, enjoy a picnic, dig to your heart's content - the possibilities are endless and our children love it.’

Kay Hemmings, Head Teacher, Tanfield Lee, Durham

‘When we introduced OPAL, the teachers stopped saying stop. They stopped saying “No”. We prioritised play in a school with two thirds of children in families with low incomes. This approach helped to reduce lower level behaviour incidents from 400 to 53; and major lunchtime incidents went from 11 to 0. Injuries also reduced, with the last 2 football and play equipment related’

Clare Greene, St Michaels Juniors, Twerton

