

1-Year Vision (2024–2025): Build

By the end of 2025 we will:

Focus Area	Strategic Actions	Why?
Pupil Leadership	Launch OPAL Play Operators Team (KS2) with structured training and rotating responsibilities	To promote pupil voice, ownership, and leadership in improving play
Staff Development	Deliver CPD on risk-benefit and behaviour policy changes	To equip staff with consistent, confident approaches to supporting varied play types
School Culture	Establish regular assemblies where pupil voice is heard/taken into account	To embed reflective and collaborative practices around play among staff and pupils
Onboarding	Integrate OPAL principles into new staff induction and include weekly play updates in bulletins	To ensure OPAL is sustainable and embedded in school communication and training cycles
Environment	Introduce or update 2–3 new play zones	To increase diversity of play types and respond to children’s expressed interests
Access in Weather	Promote the use of the field through the winter months (wellies, cleaning situations)	To improve all-season access to play
Community Links	Share fortnightly OPAL updates in newsletters and on the school website	To build understanding and support among parents and the wider school community
Monitoring	Conduct mid-year OPAL self-audit and share outcomes with SLT	To track progress, identify gaps, and guide termly planning

Family Engagement	Host an autumn and spring “Stay & Play” family afternoon on the playground	To celebrate play and strengthen family-school partnerships
Governance	Deliver a Summer Play Impact Report to governors and SLT	To show accountability, impact, and inform 2025–2026 planning

3-Year Vision (2025–2028): Build, Embed, Engage

By 2027, we will:

Focus Area	Strategic Actions	Why?
Whole School Culture	- Establish an annual OPAL calendar (e.g. Stay & Play Days, Water Play, Easter Egg Hunt, Play Voice Week) - Embed weekly assemblies for OPAL (ensuring a range of leaders from the play team lead on these each week) - Launch and embed OPAL ambassadors in KS1 and KS2	To embed a consistent, whole-school celebration and recognition of play
Staff Training	- Deliver OPAL CPD across all staff roles - Build induction pathways for new staff - Train Lunchtime Play Rangers and Coordinators	To ensure every adult understands and supports high-quality play
Communication	- Improve the profile of OPAL on our website. Create videos of OPAL to share on website and with our community - Issue fortnightly play updates via newsletter or social media	To share progress and involve families in play development

Governance	- Ensure an OPAL governor is established each year, is active and visits at least twice a year for the purposes of play provision review - Implement long-termly play review visits and reporting cycles	To ensure strategic accountability and play-focused decision making
Environment & Resources	- Create 3 new zones or update existing ones per year - Develop weather-proofed areas - Improve site zoning for varied play types - Think about inclusive areas for all - Establish bi-annual review of site improvement with play team, site managers and school business manager	To ensure a rich, resilient environment supporting different types of play
Pupil Voice	- Run annual play surveys and pupil voice groups - Use findings to evolve play offer and zones	To ensure play provision is child-informed, responsive and inclusive

By the end of 2027, we expect:

- All staff trained in OPAL principles
- Children demonstrating strong "play literacy"
- Families understanding the value of play
- A stable, embedded play team structure

5-Year Vision (2028–2031): Expand, Influence, Sustain

By 2030, we will:

Focus Area	Strategic Actions	Why?
Curriculum Integration	- Integrate outdoor learning and play-based pedagogy in all year groups - Collaborate with PE, Science and EYFS leaders on curriculum planning	To promote outdoor learning and creative curriculum links throughout the school

Community Engagement	- Host bi-annual community OPAL play events - Establish partnerships with local organisations for outdoor learning	To increase community access and engagement with play and nature
Extended Access	- Explore opportunities for before/after school OPAL zones - Develop holiday/after-school provision with a play focus	To extend the impact of play beyond the school day
Professional Excellence	- Designate internal OPAL CPD leads - Present practice at local/national OPAL networks	To build leadership capacity and share best practice
Evaluation & Adaptation	- Refresh OPAL audit every 2 years - Continue annual family and pupil play feedback cycle	To evaluate progress and remain responsive to evolving needs

By the end of 2030, we aim to:

- Influence curriculum design through OPAL principles
- Position play as a central thread in school pedagogy
- Be recognised as a leading OPAL school both regionally and nationally