



# Platinum Award



We are pleased to announce that we had an audit from OPAL last Friday and we have received the platinum award for our play offer at playtimes!

This has been a huge team effort and the positive changes that have occurred over the last 20 months have been so evident in how happy the children are at playtimes.

Please read below the feedback we received from OPAL following this award.



*“HUGE congratulations on achieving your OPAL Platinum award on Friday 16th June 2023. What a wonderful achievement. I could not be more proud of the transformation the Working Group and Play Team have undertaken, your commitment over the past 20 months and the dedication you*



*have shown to improve playtimes for all of your children. You are now in the top 0.5% of primary schools in the country who have achieved an OPAL Platinum award, a huge accolade and testament to the quality of your play provision.*

It was an absolute pleasure completing the final audit at Longlands Primary School. Every child I spoke to was happy and engaged with OPAL. There was a significant increase in the confidence and ability of the children during lunchtime in comparison with the Baseline Audit, this was particularly noticeable with the children who have an EHCP. The children are able to demonstrate dynamic risk management and were safe and competent when using large loose parts. I was



particularly impressed with the development of the skills, knowledge and understanding of the Play Team, led by Mrs Foster. It's fantastic to see the increased confidence of the play team and their journey from policing play to facilitating play. The Play Team and OPAL Working Group should be

commended for their hard work and commitment to improving the play of children at Longlands Primary School. The transformation in play over the last 20 months is incredible, the baseline audit score was 43% and you have achieved 93% at Final Audit, a Platinum Award is well deserved." **Becky Willans OPAL**



"Longlands Primary School has just achieved Platinum award status from OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning. This means that they are in the top 0.5% of UK schools for the quality of the play they provide for all their children. The school has demonstrated that it

takes the UNCRC Article 31, the child's right to play, seriously and is implementing all stages of school improvement in relation to play, including policy, planning, resourcing, staffing and evaluation." **Michael Follett BA Hons Ed, PGCE OPAL Founder and Director**





*This isn't the end and we will continue to develop our playtime offer and will be introducing gymnastics mats into the playground shortly and are always grateful for any donations of anything that will add to our play offer for the children. We would love the following items:*

- \*Dressing up clothing for 7-11 year olds*
- \*Plastic chutes*
- \*Old tyres*
- \*Plastic fish*
- \*Shells*
- \*Stones and pebbles*
- \*Buckets and spades/sand moulds*
- \*Soft balls*
- \*Scooters*
- \*Bark*
- \*Plants*
- \*Art supplies for the Amazing Art Area*
- \*Suitcases*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Gayson for helping me with the running of this project and completing lots of paperwork, Mrs Foster and the play team for their endless commitment to making playtimes fun and engaging, all the staff for facilitating play so well, all the parents and carers that have donated money and items and finally the children*



*for being so amazing, creative and respectful to equipment and each other!*



*Mrs Allen  
Deputy Head teacher*