



Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) CIC

Dear Natasha, Victoria and Debbie,

Huge congratulations on achieving your OPAL Gold Award yesterday. It has been wonderful working with Woodside over the past few years to see the transformation that has taken place in the school's approach to the provision of quality play.

On my first visit, children were queuing up to get off the playground 10 minutes before the end of playtimes and the school used very little of the available space. As a result, playtimes were noisy, crowded and boring for the majority of children.

The school has managed to implement many of the cultural and practical changes recommended in the OPAL programme and the results are clear to see. Woodside is now truly an OPAL Gold school.

This means that every child has an amazing playtime every day. It also means that play is taken seriously at the school and is given appropriate leadership, planning, evaluation and resources. Playtimes at Woodside are inclusive, joyful and provide a wonderful variety of types of play.

To maintain this quality the school is advised to:

1. Use OPAL College to ensure up-to-date training is available to all staff;
2. Further develop the playwork skills of the play team;
3. Ensure sufficient time is allotted to the play coordinator post.

The next steps are:

1. Publicise your amazing achievement and let your parents and community know you are an OPAL Gold school
2. Consider if you would like to receive further support from OPAL via a Next Steps reaccreditation package.

I will forward your final assessment in due course and will share your wonderful news across our channels once I see it publicised by you. Thank you for being part of the Opal Primary Program. Huge Congratulations once again; this is a tremendous achievement!



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Best Wishes

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Children & Young People Now
Awards 2023

Winner