

Outdoor Play and Learning Intent

Calmore Infant school is committed to providing a high quality educational experience for all our pupils and our Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) provision is no exception. As a School, our learning heroes are embedded in all aspects of our school day.

Resilient



Resourceful



Part of a team



Reflective



These complement our school rules:

Ready to learn: Children have a positive, confident attitude to learning. They are both physically and emotionally ready to learn.

Be Safe: Children are prepared to help each other and work as a team.

Respectful: Children show initiative, ask well thought out questions and are prepared to use a variety of strategies to learn.

Our OPAL lunchtimes provide a safe, stimulating, flexible, diverse and nurturing play environment through the use of playful resources. These aims are effectively interwoven within the free play ideology. In our outdoor play zones our children can acquire new skills such as taking risks, building resilience, making autonomous choices about their play processes and experiences and engage in initiating free play with others.

Implementation

One reason we are implementing this programme is that childhood has changed and many children no longer get their play need met out of school.

- Children aged between 5-16 spend at least 6 hours a day
- The average child spends just 4 hours a week playing outside.

We are developing our outdoor play and learning with support from the OPAL (Outdoor play and Learning) programme (<http://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk>). It is based on the

idea that as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play, and as 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.

There are many proven benefits for schools which carry out the OPAL programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, less accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

