

Response to Parent Questions

Storage

Concerned about value for money and how much in total would be spent in total on Opal play were all Opal requests to be approved. How much more is planned to be spent on Opal?

At present, we will not be asking the PA for any more money towards Opal Play. This project is a long term one, which will require more funding at some point. Play times are currently bland and opportunities are limited if you don't enjoy football. To change this focus within the playground and provide greater opportunities, money will need to be spent.

How many sheds are needed? If the place is full with buildings, where is the actual space to run and play ?

This is the only shed we are purchasing. This will provide the storage space we will need for Opal Play to have the resources needed. Quality storage will hopefully reduce the costs of having to replace equipment that would be stored outside. Once we have finalised the zones we are creating, this will be shared with parents. This will highlight the large space still available for other activities.

Not sure where in the playground this would go and if there is enough space to accommodate it. Feel lots of more money will be required to fill it. Unfortunately care is not taken of currently items for me to support further funding.

The storage shed will be placed in the playground to the right of the South Street Gates as you enter the school, in the corner near the fence between the school and St Mary's (see pic below) marked out by the chess pieces. This will ensure that it doesn't take away space to play. It is centrally located to allow for equipment to be moved to locations and returned. Some money will be used to buy equipment for the shed, but we aim for donations from families, local businesses, and trips to charity shops to fill the majority. As with any project, money is required.

Children will need to be taught how to care for the equipment, one of the key aims of Opal Play, which also aligns with our 3 core rules of Ready, Responsible and Respectful.



I think this should be a little bit less and more money for sports and rainbow room equipment, and in general to support classrooms with what they require for pupils.

One of the main aims of Opal play is to support the children in the classroom. Quite often, we have a range of situations arising from lunchtime play and a lack of variety and opportunity. Opal play will allow a greater variety of activities, teach children to socialise and play, as well as provide alternatives to a football heavy playground. Other schools have found that Opal play has reduced playground incidents, and created a more focused and calmer classroom environment, something all classrooms need. This also allows teachers to teach, rather than spending a good proportion of their time managing lunchtime incidents.

£5000 is a lot for storage

Yes it is, but it is about purchasing something that will last for a long period of time, reducing costs overall. Once in place, this will provide the storage required for us to grow Opal Play further, allowing the introduction of a wider range of activities, and reducing replacement costs as equipment will be stored appropriately.

Not necessary

Please read the above responses. If you have an alternative, please let us know.

Sandpit

Concerned about value for money and how much in total would be spent in total on Opal play were this to be approved. How much more is planned to be spent on Opal? Are there maintenance costs associated with the sand pit?

At present, we will not be asking the PA for any more money towards Opal Play. Any new initiative requires money to be spent to set up, promote and maintain, this is something that the school will be budgeting for. As with any piece of equipment within a school there are costs involved with maintenance.

A sand pit will only be used by the small children. The older ones will just throw the sand at each other . The chosen area is actually the only shaded place where they can play. If you put a sand pit you need to be in to use the shade that was already paid for . The money would be better used in a new shade where there's no trees to protect them from the sun in summer .

We as a school don't believe that it will only be used by the smaller children. There will be rules in place to use the sandpit safely and appropriately. It will be managed by our Play Leaders.

Hygiene of the sandpit would be my biggest concern. Will a cover be included and covered every evening to ensure foxes do not use it? Will there be additional funds required to refill the sandbox when it becomes depleted ?

Previous items purchased with fund raising funds have not been looked after or cared for (football nets) and feel the same attitude could be taken with this sandpit.

Concerns about fox and cat faeces, mites and bugs in the sand. Sand being taken all-round the school and home in shoes/socks pockets. Sand being thrown, will an extra teacher be placed on duty to monitor

Yes the sandpit will be covered to prevent foxes and cats using it. There will be rules in place when using the sandpit, one of which will be the sand stays where it is. The Play Leaders will be monitoring the use of the sandpit to avoid these things from happening.

Children will need to be taught how to care for the equipment, one of the key aims of Opal Play, which also aligns with our 3 core rules of Ready, Responsible and Respectful.

I am concerned that we did fundraising for shade and this will restrict access to shade for those not using the sandpit. I'm not opposed to the idea of a sandpit at all, just this location.

This is not a definitive location. Currently this is the area that our Opal Play Mentor suggested as having the space to support such a project, as well as some shade. Once we have finalised the zones we are creating, this will be shared with parents.