



Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) CIC

Dear Headteacher, Staff, Play Team and Pupils,

It is with enormous pleasure that I congratulate everyone at Shobnall Primary School on achieving OPAL Platinum Accreditation – the highest level of recognition within the OPAL programme.

This is an exceptional accomplishment and one that reflects a truly embedded culture of outstanding play. Achieving Platinum is far more than reaching a milestone; it demonstrates a sustained commitment to ensuring that every child experiences rich, meaningful and inspiring opportunities for play as an essential part of school life. It is a recognition of the vision, dedication and collective effort that has transformed your outdoor environment into a place where children can flourish.

Throughout the accreditation process, it has been evident that Shobnall Primary School has embraced the OPAL ethos wholeheartedly. Your approach to free-flow lunches gives children the freedom and flexibility to make the most of their playtime, creating a calm and enjoyable experience that places children's needs at the heart of the school day. The imaginative use of the entire school site has created an environment full of opportunity, where every space invites exploration, adventure and discovery. Equally inspiring is the way the whole school community has worked together to create artistic installations across the play space, resulting in an environment that celebrates creativity, ownership and imagination while reflecting the unique identity of your school.

This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering leadership of your Headteacher, whose vision and commitment have championed the value of play throughout the school. The dedication of the play team and curricular lead, the enthusiasm and hard work of every member of staff, and the energy, creativity and responsibility shown by your pupils have all contributed to creating something truly remarkable. Platinum accreditation is a whole-school achievement, and every member of your community should feel immensely proud of the part they have played.

The impact of this play culture is clear to see. Children at Shobnall Primary School are confident, engaged and empowered to make their own choices. They are developing resilience through challenge, creativity through open-ended opportunities, and social skills through collaboration and inclusion. Your play



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environment encourages joyful exploration, thoughtful risk-taking and imaginative experiences that support children's wellbeing, independence and lifelong learning.

Thank you for your continued commitment to placing play at the heart of your school. Shobnall Primary School stands as a beacon of best practice, demonstrating what is possible when a school embraces creativity, inclusivity, trust and child-led exploration. Your work will undoubtedly continue to inspire others on their own OPAL journey.

Please accept my warmest congratulations on this outstanding achievement. I wish you every success as you continue to build upon this incredible legacy and provide generations of children with the rich, joyful play experiences they deserve.

With warmest congratulations and best wishes,

Amy Masini
OPAL Mentor



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