

SMART Multi Academy Trust
OPAL Playworker
Stocksfield Avenue Primary School

Post Title: OPAL Playworker

Responsible to: Headteacher or other designated teacher

Job Purpose: To support the delivery of the school's Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme by creating a safe, inclusive, stimulating and engaging play environment where children can develop confidence, creativity, independence, resilience and social skills through high-quality play opportunities.

Main Duties: The OPAL Playworker will support the delivery of the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme by creating a safe, inclusive and engaging outdoor environment where children can thrive through play. The postholder will actively encourage children to participate in a wide range of creative, imaginative, physical and child-led play opportunities, using both natural and man-made resources. They will supervise and interact positively with pupils, promoting confidence, independence, resilience and social development while ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children. The role requires enthusiasm, energy and a willingness to become involved in play, helping children to explore, take appropriate risks, solve problems and build positive relationships. The OPAL Playworker will work collaboratively with colleagues to maintain high standards of behaviour, safeguarding and inclusion, contributing to the school's vision of providing every child with an enjoyable and enriching playtime experience every day.

General

- Facilitate and support high-quality outdoor play experiences for children during playtimes and lunchtimes.
- Encourage children to engage in creative, imaginative, active and child-led play using a variety of natural and man-made resources.
- Promote a positive, inclusive and welcoming play environment where all children feel valued and able to participate.
- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children while maintaining an appropriate balance between risk and challenge within play activities.
- Build positive relationships with children, encouraging cooperation, problem-solving, resilience and independence.
- Actively engage in play with children, modelling enthusiasm, creativity and positive interactions.
- Support children in developing social skills, conflict resolution strategies and respectful behaviour during play.

- Set up, monitor and maintain play areas, equipment and resources in accordance with OPAL principles and school procedures.
- Carry out routine checks of play equipment and outdoor areas, reporting any hazards, damage or safety concerns promptly.
- Encourage children to take responsibility for resources and help maintain an organised and tidy play environment.
- Support children of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to access and enjoy play opportunities.
- Work collaboratively with school staff to ensure a consistent approach to behaviour, safeguarding and inclusion.
- Follow all school policies and procedures, including safeguarding, health and safety, behaviour and equality policies.
- Attend training, meetings and professional development opportunities, including OPAL training, as required.

Child Protection

- The post holder will have responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and any young person that they are responsible for, or come into contact with.