



Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) CIC

22nd October 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

Congratulations to Joseph Turner Primary School on achieving the OPAL Platinum Award!

I am delighted to congratulate the whole school community on achieving the prestigious **OPAL Platinum Award**, the highest level of recognition for excellence in play provision, with a fantastic score of **97%**!

This is an exceptional achievement and reflects the hard work, enthusiasm and commitment of everyone involved in making play such an important part of school life.

Through strong leadership, a dedicated Play Team and a shared belief in children's right to play, Joseph Turner has created a truly wonderful play culture. During my final audit visit, it was a joy to see children confidently exploring an incredible range of play opportunities, from den building, large loose parts and imaginative worlds to sand, potion making, music, scooters, ball games and quieter spaces for reading, creating and spending time with friends.

I was particularly impressed by the **wonderful sense of challenge** throughout the playground. Children are trusted to climb, balance, push, pull, carry, scoot, balance, build and explore, developing their confidence, independence and ability to manage risk. The school has also given real thought to children's different sensory needs, ensuring there are opportunities for energetic movement, creativity, quiet concentration and rest.

The jewel in the crown of Joseph Turner's provision is undoubtedly pupil voice. The school's exceptional Year 6 Play Rangers deserve a very special mention. These children take real ownership of their play environment, supporting 'safe enough' building and making, helping other children develop their play ideas and mentoring younger pupils with remarkable care, confidence and enthusiasm. They are a real credit to the school.

Another highlight was hearing children talk so enthusiastically about their fortnightly play assemblies. It is clear that play is celebrated, valued and understood across the school, and that children are genuinely listened to and trusted.



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www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk



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I would also like to recognise the fantastic contribution of the staff, leadership team, governors and families. From fundraising and donating resources to supporting the development of the playground, this has been a genuine whole-school community effort.

What makes Joseph Turner so special is that **OPAL is not simply something that happens at lunchtime. It has become part of the culture of the school.** Children have freedom, choice, challenge and a real sense of belonging in a playground that they recognise as their own.

As the school moves into its next chapter, I hope everyone will continue to protect and celebrate this wonderful provision, ensuring that future generations of children enjoy the same rich opportunities to play.

Joseph Turner Primary is a shining example of what can be achieved when a school truly values play as an essential part of childhood.

You should all be incredibly proud of what you have achieved. A score of 97% is an outstanding result and thoroughly deserved.

A huge congratulations to everyone at Joseph Turner Primary. Well done!

With very best wishes,

Amy Campbell

OPAL Mentor, West Midlands



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