

POP

Purposeful Outdoor Play @ St Aloysius

The importance of playtime...



Playful moments with friends are an essential part of childhood. Here at St Aloysius, we understand the importance of breaktimes and lunchtimes for our pupils, not only for their physical development (a chance to run around, increase their heartrate and get some fresh air) but also for their emotional well-being. As they enter into Early Years, early experiences of play is how young children begin to learn and make sense of the world around them. While they are having fun, they are working on critical parts of their development such as building motor, cognitive, social and emotional skills. This learning does not end when children leave Reception. In our school, we place great value on the experiences children have in the playground with their school mates, which is why we are working to develop 'POP' – Purposeful Outdoor Play.

Whilst both of our schools have always ensured that the children have planned resources alongside adult support during playtimes, in the past we have largely relied on PE style equipment such as hula hoops, skipping ropes and different types of ball games. At the beginning of the year, we asked our children how we could make our school better. Many of our children told us that they would like more things to play with on the yard...

We listened!



We have set a plan in place to bring the wide variety of play experiences, first explored in Nursery and Reception, up into the rest of our school.

'Play, in its many forms, represents a natural age-appropriate method for children to and learn about the world around them...Through play children acquire knowledge and practice new skills, providing a foundation for more complex processes and academic success.'

(Fisher and others, 2008)

When I play outdoors ...

What are the benefits of outdoor play?

I'm really active

I sleep better

I make friends

I fly!

I learn to trust myself and feel trusted by you

I fall ... and I get up

I explore

I learn about nature ... and learn to care for the planet

I work out my problems

I try out 'real life'

I get to know how my body moves and where it ends

I am LOUD

I am quiet

I build GRIT

I get dirty

I have lots to talk about

I'm sick less often

I am happy ... and when I'm happy, I want to keep playing



Play is what I do when grown-ups stop telling me what to do.

Autumn 1

- Complete pupil voice
- SLT to meet with PE team to discuss vision
- Visit local schools who implement OPAL/have innovative outdoor plans and areas

Autumn 2

- Begin to create interest around POP through displays in school
- Meet with School Council to decide which play areas to implement first
- Communicate vision to parents and encourage the school community to help donate items.
- Divide the yard into zones
- Order sheds and crates for outdoor storage
- Begin to mix all children together Rec/KS1/KS2



Resources

- Boxes
- Crates
- Tyres
- Material
- Rope
- Pegs



Resources

- Coloured chalks
- Shapes to draw around
- Stencils
- Water
- Brushes

Resources

- Speaker
- Mirrors
- Scarves
- Ribbons
- 'Microphones'

Resources

- Dolls
- Animals
- Train tracks
- Cars
- Equipment to 'build' landscapes

