Zones Summary

OPAL provides children with a range of fun, exciting and engaging outdoor play opportunities. Each area offers different activities and resources that encourage children to explore, use their imagination, develop new skills and learn through play.

Calm Zone: Children enjoy a quiet outdoor space with sand and natural materials where they can relax, explore and enjoy the environment. They also access quieter games and role-play opportunities. This supports emotional wellbeing, self-regulation, sensory development, curiosity and social skills.

Music and Dance: Children access microphones, percussion instruments, junk and real instruments to make music, sing, dance and perform. This develops creativity, confidence, self-expression, listening skills, rhythm and teamwork.

Dressing Up and Role Play: Children use dressing-up clothes, props and accessories to explore different characters and create their own role-play scenarios. This develops imagination, communication, language, confidence and social skills.

Small World: Children explore resources such as Lego, cars, train tracks, animals and dinosaurs to build, create and develop their own small-world adventures. This encourages imaginative play, storytelling, problem-solving, fine motor skills and cooperation.

Large Loose Parts: Children use a variety of large loose parts to move, build and create their own dens, structures and obstacle courses. This develops creativity, physical skills, teamwork, independence, resilience and problem-solving.

Sports Zone: Children take part in a range of sports, physical activities and playground games. This promotes physical fitness, coordination, teamwork, turn-taking, confidence and positive friendships.

Bubble Zone: Children explore bubble-making equipment, create different-sized bubbles, watch and chase them. This encourages sensory exploration, curiosity, physical movement, hand-eye coordination and early scientific understanding.

Weaving Wall: Children use materials such as wool, ribbon, fabric and natural resources to weave and create their own designs. This develops fine motor skills, creativity, concentration, pattern recognition and perseverance.

Mark-Making Zone: Children explore a range of mark-making materials, including chalks and crayons on large sheets of paper, walls and designated playground surfaces. They can draw, write, create patterns and express their ideas freely. This develops fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, creativity, early writing skills, imagination and confidence in expressing themselves.

Wheels Zone: Children access a range of well-designed, sturdy scooters, trikes and other wheeled equipment, with space for more than one child to ride and play together. This develops balance, coordination, gross motor skills, spatial awareness and confidence. It also encourages sharing, cooperation, awareness of others and understanding of safe movement.

Space Hopper Zone: Children use space hoppers to bounce, move around and enjoy active outdoor play. This develops balance, coordination, core strength, gross motor skills and spatial awareness. It also encourages confidence, physical fitness, turn-taking and enjoyment of being active.