



BURLINGTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs P Utting

020 8942 2687

admin@burlingtonjunior.org

burlingtonj.kingston.sch.uk

Burlington Junior School OPAL 3-Year Action Plan

Strategic Objective: To embed a sustainable, safe, and culturally inclusive outdoor play environment that supports the physical, social, and emotional development of all children aged 7–11.

Phase 1: People, Culture, & Policy (Months 1–6)

Focus: Aligning the adult team, launching the play policy, and navigating communication barriers.

Area of Development	Action Required & Owner	Resources & Funding	Review Date	Evaluation / Impact
Play Team Upskilling	Deliver OPAL INSET training for all teaching staff and Lunchtime Play Teams (SMSAs). Shift focus from "policing" to remote/ranging supervision. <i>Owner: Play Coordinator</i>	OPAL Mentor sessions / Staff meeting time	INSET training completed but reviewed Sept/Jan annually.	
Policy Ratification	Present the Outdoor Play & Learning Policy to the Governing Body for formal adoption. Include the HSE risk-benefit approach. <i>Owner: Headteacher / Chair of Governors</i>	Completed 2026	Review annually.	
Pupil Voice Establish	Form an OPAL Student Committee (or "Play Guardians") with representation from Year 3 to Year 6, ensuring all pupils are included. <i>Owner: Play Coordinator</i>	Assembly time	OPAL monitors 2025-26 New monitors inducted Sept/Oct	

Phase 2: Environment, Infrastructure, & Loose Parts (Months 6–18)

Focus: Securing storage, materials, and setting up the landscape.



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The Play Store (Storage)	Repurpose or purchase a secure outdoor container/shed to hold loose parts. Install visual labels (photos, icons, multi-language text) on all sorting crates. <i>Owner: Site Manager</i>	Sourced shipping container then green shed	Jan 2026. Review Feb 2027 with new ground	
Loose Parts Drive	Launch a community donation drive for non-prescriptive parts (tyres, crates, cable reels, tarps). Partner with local businesses or builders to source pallets/pipes. <i>Owner: Play Team</i>	Letter to parents / Local business outreach	2025-26 academic year. Two donation events a year moving forward.	
Multilingual Signage & Rules	Delineate new zones (e.g., active, quiet, muddy) <i>Owner: Play Coordinator / Pupils</i>	Weatherproof signage boards / Art supplies	Ongoing	
Risk-Benefit Infrastructure	Complete the inspection of fixed equipment and complete initial Risk-Benefit Assessments (RBAs) for upcoming elements (e.g., loose-parts building, den making). <i>Owner: Site Manager</i>	OPAL RBA templates	Completed. Weekly inspections from the OPAL team Sept 2026	

Phase 3: Loose Parts Enrichment & Zone Expansion (Months 18–36)

Focus: Introducing specialized physical challenges, creative zones, and sustainable maintenance.

Area of Development	Action Required & Owner	Resources & Funding	Review Date	Evaluation / Impact
The "Play Helper" System	Train Years 3-6 children to become Play Helpers to open/close the Play areas and support tidying times. <i>Owner: Play Coordinator</i>	High-vis vests for helpers / Play Assembly recognition	New monitors fully inducted by Nov 2026	



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Creative & Performing Zones	Build an elevated performance stage using pallets and add fence-mounted mirrors. Introduce dress-up clothes and musical items to bridge cultural play. <i>Owner: Site Manager / Parents</i>	Pallet donations / Parent volunteer build day	Completed 2026 but ongoing stage building.
Physical Challenge Areas	Construct a "Tyre Mountain" or anchor a slackline between trees to satisfy gross motor needs for juniors <i>Owner: Site Manager</i>	Heavy-duty tyres / Certified slackline kit	Slack line set up but area 2026-27 is popular for mud. Only one suitable tree. Awaiting new grounds.
Continuous Scrap Supply	Establish a half-termly "Scrap Tidy & Top Up" schedule to clear broken loose parts and solicit fresh donations from the community. <i>Owner: Play Team / Site Manager</i>	Volunteer team roster	Weekly checks by SMSAs. Community drives twice annually. PTA funding twice a year

2026-2028 targets.

1. New land at the rear of the field. This is intended for mainly sports use as we are hoping it will be landscaped better than the current field.
2. Developing small world play for those children who prefer quieter spaces.
3. Use of additional trees in the new area to set up a consistent slack line and tree climbing/ swings. The site currently only has one substantial tree.
4. Sand pit on the field to be constructed to incorporate 14-30 tonnes of sand.
5. A additional mud kitchen area to be created at the rear of the zip line and an additional soil storage area to be created.
6. Use of the Y3 playground to incorporate Y3-6 play as a wheels area.
7. Additional OPAL storage for the main playground which is accessible by children particularly OPAL monitors.
8. Securing a regular collection of scooters, buggies and ride in cars/ carts from a reuse or recycling centre.
9. Using the sports hall during lunchtime for additional sports area- basketball/ netball.
10. Making use of the roof terrace once this has been passed by health and safety to provide a reflective space for quieter play.
11. The development of a wellie and wet weather clothing store.