



BURLINGTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs P Utting

020 8942 2687

admin@burlingtonjunior.org

burlingtonj.kingston.sch.uk

An OPAL School Play Charter is a formal declaration of a school's commitment to protecting and enhancing every child's right to play, in accordance with Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Burlington Junior School OPAL Play Charter

Our Promise to Every Child, Every Day

We believe that high-quality, free play is essential for our children's health, well-being, and development. Our multicultural school community is our greatest strength. We celebrate this diversity by creating an outdoor environment where every child feels they belong, are valued, and are free to express themselves.

This charter outlines the rights of our children, the commitments of our staff, and our shared approach to safe, inclusive, and adventurous play.

1. The Rights of Our Children

Every child at our = school has the right to:

- Play freely: To choose how they play, what they play with, and who they play with across all year groups.
- Access the whole school site: To explore our fields, hard surfaces, and natural zones in all weathers, all year round.
- Take managed risks: To challenge themselves physically and emotionally by climbing, building, and learning their own limits.
- Cultural expression: To play games from their own cultural heritage and share them with peers without judgment or restriction.
- Be heard: To contribute ideas, share feedback, and help shape our play zones and resources.

2. Our Commitments to Universal Inclusion

- A Diverse Play Landscape: Providing varied play zones—from active building spaces to quiet, reflective areas—so children can find spaces that align with their social comfort and sensory needs.
- Open-Ended Resources: Using low-cost, multi-use "loose parts" (e.g., tyres, crates, fabric, tarpaulins). These items have no set rules, allowing children to build, imagine, and collaborate creatively together.
- Peer Connection: Actively supporting mixed-age play so children learn to navigate communication naturally through shared projects.

3. The Role of Our Staff Play Team

Our entire staff—including lunchtime supervisors, teachers, and teaching assistants—operates as a unified Play Team. We promise to:

- Observe rather than control: Step back to let children solve problems, negotiate, and lead their own play.
- Act as cultural facilitators: Encouraging an environment of mutual curiosity and respect.



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- Support risk-benefit management: Help children navigate physical challenges safely, ensuring we manage real hazards while allowing the benefits of healthy risk-taking.
- Maintain positive consistency: Meet regularly to share observations, adjust resources, and ensure every child is supported equitably during the school day.

4. Weather, Uniform, and Community

- All-Weather Play: We believe there is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing. We expect all children to participate in outdoor play year-round.
- Practical Uniforms: We work with families to ensure appropriate footwear (wellies/trainers) and waterproof clothes are accessible, keeping play equitable for everyone.

Our Shared Agreement

By implementing this charter, we bridge cultures, languages, and ages through the universal language of play.

Agreed and supported by;

Headteacher & Governors

The Staff Play Team

The School Pupil Council