

Essex County Council

William Read Primary School and Nursery

Long Road Canvey Island Essex SS8 0JE

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Wednesday, 05 February 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Our school recognises the value of playtime for our children. To acknowledge this we are embarking on a programme called OPAL 'Outdoor Play and Learning' and over the next 18 months will be looking to develop both our outdoor space and the play opportunities we offer. As part of the consultation process for this we will be listening to all those involved; children, teachers, parents and our Governing body.

In order to help us, we would like to find out a little bit about your own play experiences as a child and listen to any ideas you may have for improving play at our school. Please complete the questions below and return to your child's class teacher.

How important do you think playtime is for your child?

Very important

Quite important

Not very important

Currently, how much does your child enjoy their school playtimes? (Feel free to ask them!)

Playtime is good

Playtime is a bit boring

My child does not like playtime

They would like to do more things at playtime

Playtime is too short

Playtime is too long

Thinking about your own childhood, what type of things do you remember playing as a child both at school and in and around your home environment?

Did you benefit as a child from your play experiences? Yes No

If yes, please tell us how (for example what skills to did you gain or how did it help you develop as a child)



Do you feel your own child has the same play opportunities to play outdoors as you did?

Yes No

If No, why not?

If you could do something to address this, would you? Yes No

If school could improve the play opportunities they offer, what types of things would you like to see and why?

Feel free to add any other comments

Thank you very much for completing this, we will keep you informed on a regular basis as we progress on our OPAL journey. You will also be invited to attend a play information assembly in a few months time where we will share the results of our questionnaires and hear about the changes we plan to make.

Yours sincerely

The OPAL team

Mrs Watkins, Mrs Linwood, Mrs Middleton, Mrs Fletcher, Ms Paterson, Mrs Dove,

Ms Khokher and Mrs Coombes

We are particularly keen for parents who can help us collect what we call 'Loose Parts' for children to play with. These can be any objects which are safe enough to play with, see the list below. We will be setting up a drop off point for the 'Loose parts' so they can be sorted and checked before children have the opportunity to play with them.

Would you be happy to help and what might you be able to provide? **Please tick all that apply.**

Fabricated	Sources	Tick
Astro Turf Off cuts	Landscapers	
Boards, Old Cabinet Doors, Panels	Parents, trades people	
Bread, milk, bottle and grocery crates	Traders	
Brief cases	Parents, charity shops	
Buggies, push chairs	Parents	

Cable drums	Trades People	
Cardboard boxes	Trades, deliveries, parents	
Carpet samples	Carpet shops	
Carpet squares	Carpet shops	
Cuddly Toys	Charity Shops	
Fabrics - all shapes and sizes	Parents, Jumble Sales, Charity Shops. Fabric shops, Markets	
Foam pipe covers and noodles	Plumbers, Pound shops	
Guttering	Trades people, suppliers	
Hoses	DIY stores, parents ,	
Keyboards	Computer companies, parents	
Metal pots, pans, trays etc. Especially catering sizes	Caterers, Parents, Gumtree	
Nets, fishing, cargo, football	Scrapstores, internet, football clubs	
Office removal crates	Tea Crates Ltd, Office movers	
Old clothes, jackets, overalls, hats, bags	Parents, Jumble sales, charity shops	
Old household appliances, hoovers, fax machines, microwaves etc	Parents	
One Ton Dumpy Bags	Builders	
Pallets	Builders, stores, parents	
Phones	Phone companies, parents	
Piping, gas, water and drainage	Trades people	
Planks - decking, scaffolders (need sanding) (1m-2m)	DIY, Builders merchants, carpenters, builders	
Plastic Chairs with no legs	Schools and offices	
Plastic Road Barriers	Highway firms, Border Barriers Ltd	
Plastic trugs and bins	DIY Stores and Internet	
Ropes	Ships Chandlers, Internet	
Small Children's Bike Wheels, wheels	Parents, DIY stores, internet	
Small wheely bins	Online	
Sofa and chair cushions	Parents	
Steering Wheels	Scrap dealers	
Suitcases - all sizes	Parents, charity shops	

Tarps	DIY and Building Merchants	
Traffic Cones	Internet, Highway Companies	
Tubes of all kinds	Parents, trades	
Tyres; car, Go-kart, motorbike, cycle	Garages, Qwick Fit etc	
Waterproof Cot Mattresses	Parents	
Wooden block and off cuts	Carpenters, Builders	

Natural	Source	Tick
Branches and stick	Parents, Local woodland, tree surgeons	
Feathers	Internet	
Fruit	Fruit Trees	
Grass	Plants	
Leaves	Plants	
Logs	Firewood companies, Local Authority, Tree surgeons	
Mud	Nature, Landscape suppliers, Builders Merchants	
Pea Gravel	Builders Merchants, Landscape Suppliers	
Peat	Garden Centres	
Pine cones	Woods and Forests	
Play Bark/ Woodchip	Landscape Suppliers, Play Companies	
Sand (Washed dredged not 'Sharp')	Builders Merchants, Landscape supplies	
Sea Pebbles	Landscape suppliers	
Shells	Sea side	
Varied Aggregates, slate, flint, clay	Landscape supplies, Specialist Aggregates	
Water	Sky (not the company!), Tap	
Wood Off Cuts	Carpenters, Builders, Woodworkers	