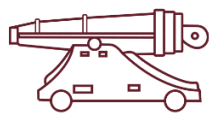


**Tyntesfield**  
Primary School

## **OPAL Play Coordinator**

Information Pack for Applicants

May 2026



**Tyntesfield**  
Primary School

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## Why join us?

Tyntesfield is a friendly, two-form entry primary school in Trafford and is part of **Inspiring Learners Multi-Academy Trust**. We are proud members of the Trust and value the many opportunities it gives us to work collaboratively, share expertise, and learn from one another.

Our mission statement,

**“We grow as learners, to be the best we can be, through care, collaboration and challenge,”** is at the heart of everything we do. It guides our decisions, our relationships, and our approach to teaching and learning.

Our trustees, governors, headteacher, leadership team, and staff work together to live out our mission and values every day. We are passionate about our school community, and everything we do is focused on the children in our care.

## Our school values

- **We love learning**
- **We make the most of every opportunity**
- **We appreciate and care for each other**
- **We achieve our best**

## Would you like to:

- Be part of a school and Trust where **collaboration and teamwork are strong?**
- Work in a school and Trust that is **ambitious for everyone**, supporting both pupils and staff to grow and succeed?
- Join a community where **everyone is welcomed, respected, valued, and supported** to be themselves?

If you feel you could be a valued and important part of our school community, **we would love to hear from you.**



## OPAL Play Coordinator

### Job Description

#### **General Duties:**

The OPAL Play Coordinator will lead, develop and sustain high-quality play provision across the school in line with the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme. The postholder will champion the value of play, support staff and pupils to develop enriching play opportunities, and help embed positive play cultures during break and lunchtime. The role is central to improving children's wellbeing, inclusion, physical activity and social development.

#### **Key Responsibilities**

- Lead the day-to-day coordination and development of OPAL play across the school, working closely with senior leaders, staff and pupils.
- Promote inclusive, high-quality play opportunities that meet the needs of all children, including those with SEND and those needing additional emotional or behavioural support.
- Develop, organise, maintain and replenish play zones, loose parts, resources and outdoor environments to ensure they are safe, engaging and stimulating.
- Support lunchtime supervisors, teaching staff and support staff to understand high-quality play, risk–benefit approaches and positive play interactions.
- Model effective practice during playtimes, supporting children to manage risk, resolve conflicts and develop independence and resilience.
- Work with pupils to gather ideas, feedback and voice to help shape play provision and encourage ownership and responsibility.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of OPAL play on behaviour, wellbeing, inclusion and engagement, contributing to school self-evaluation where required.
- Liaise with parents/carers where appropriate to promote the value of play and celebrate successes.
- Ensure all play provision aligns with school safeguarding, health and safety and risk assessment procedures, adopting an appropriate risk–benefit approach.
- Support the sustainability of OPAL practices beyond the temporary contract by embedding systems, routines and staff confidence.

#### **Mentoring, Supervision and Development**

- Support and guide staff, including teaching assistants and midday supervisors, in developing high-quality play practice in line with the OPAL programme and school values.
- Model and promote positive play interactions, helping colleagues to build confidence in facilitating inclusive, creative, and purposeful play.
- Contribute to the ethos, vision, and aims of the school by attending relevant meetings and contributing to the development and review of play, behaviour, wellbeing, and outdoor learning policies and procedures.
- Participate in staff meetings, training days, and OPAL-related professional development activities as requested, supporting whole-school understanding of the value of play.

## **Behavioural and Pastoral**

- Promote inclusive, respectful, and safe play for all children, actively recognising and appropriately challenging any incidents of racism, bullying, discrimination, harassment, or exclusion, in line with school policies and procedures.
- Support children to understand expectations for positive behaviour during playtimes, helping them to resolve conflicts, develop social skills, and build resilience through play.
- Understand and follow school safeguarding and child protection procedures at all times, reporting concerns in line with statutory and school guidance.
- Assist in maintaining a calm, orderly, and purposeful play environment across the school site, including supervising pupils during playtimes, lunchtimes, and on planned visits or outdoor learning activities.
- Provide pastoral support to pupils during less structured times of the day, recognising when children may need additional reassurance, guidance, or emotional support.
- Support children with physical needs during play, including the safe use, storage, and maintenance of play equipment and resources.
- Foster positive and supportive relationships with parents and carers by sharing information about play, wellbeing, and inclusion, and by encouraging parental engagement with the school's approach to play and outdoor learning.

## **Other**

- Any other duties required by the class teacher, AHT, DHT, or the Headteacher, which is in the scope of the post.
- At all times carry out duties with due regard to the school's Health and Safety policy.
- To work within and encourage the school's Equal Opportunity policy and contribute to diversity policies.

*This job description will be reviewed annually and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the post holder. It is not a comprehensive statement of procedures and tasks, but sets out the main expectations of the School in relation to the post holder's professional responsibilities and duties, including the provision of high quality teaching and learning and the pastoral care of the children in their charge.*

*Elements of this job description and changes to it may be negotiated at the request of either the Headteacher or the incumbent of the post.*



**OPAL Play Coordinator - Person Specification**

Criteria	Attributes	Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria
<b>Training &amp; Qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience equivalent to HLTA level or willingness to work at this level</li> </ul>	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Willingness to undertake OPAL-related training (if not already completed)</li> </ul>	Y	
<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience of working with children in a school setting or educational setting</li> </ul>	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience of supporting children's play, wellbeing or social development</li> </ul>	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience of working with children with a range of needs, including SEND or emotional/behavioural needs</li> </ul>	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previous involvement with OPAL or similar outdoor play initiatives (e.g Forest Schools)</li> </ul>		Y
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience of leading or coordinating an aspect of provision within a school</li> </ul>		Y
<b>Abilities and Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong understanding of the importance of play for children's physical, social and emotional development.</li> </ul>	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to build positive, trusting relationships with pupils and adults.</li> </ul>	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confidence in managing groups of children and supporting positive behaviour through relational approaches rather than sanctions.</li> </ul>	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good organisational skills, including managing resources and routines effectively.</li> </ul>	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to communicate clearly and work collaboratively with staff, pupils and families.</li> </ul>	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding of safeguarding responsibilities and commitment to keeping children safe.</li> </ul>	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience supporting lunchtime or playtime provision</li> </ul>		Y
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interest in outdoor learning, Forest School or adventurous activities</li> </ul>		Y
<b>Professional and Personal Qualities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enthusiastic, proactive and passionate about children's wellbeing and play.</li> </ul>	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusive, child-centred and reflective in approach.</li> </ul>	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calm, resilient and able to respond flexibly to challenges.</li> </ul>	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committed to teamwork and continuous improvement.</li> </ul>	Y	



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website: [www.tyntesfieldschool.co.uk](http://www.tyntesfieldschool.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Kathryn Manion

Required for September 2026

**OPAL Play Coordinator**  
**(Temporary 12 month contract)**

The Governors are seeking to appoint an **enthusiastic, committed, and creative OPAL Play Coordinator** to join our caring, supportive, hardworking, and collaborative school team.

The successful candidate will have **high aspirations for all children**, a strong belief in the value of play, wellbeing, and inclusion, and a commitment to creating rich, engaging, and inclusive play experiences for every child. We are looking for someone who is keen to grow in the role and who values ongoing professional development.

This post would be well suited to someone with experience in playwork, learning support, pastoral care, education, or outdoor learning, as well as those looking to further develop their expertise in play and child development.

Tyntesfield is a two-form entry primary school in Trafford and one of two schools within the **Inspiring Learners Multi-Academy Trust**. We are proud to be part of the Trust and value the opportunities it provides for collaboration, shared learning, and professional support across schools.

Tyntesfield Primary School is committed to **safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children** and expects all staff to share this commitment. We are an inclusive school community and warmly welcome applicants from all backgrounds. References will be required, and the appointment will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

To download the application pack, which includes the job description, person specification, and application form, please visit: [www.yourcounciljobs.co.uk/trafford](http://www.yourcounciljobs.co.uk/trafford)

*Completed application forms should be returned to the Headteacher at: [recruitment@tyntesfield.trafford.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@tyntesfield.trafford.sch.uk)*

**Employer:** Inspiring Learners Trust

**Salary Grade:** HLTA (Band 5 pt 19-22)

**Working Pattern:** 12.5 hours per week (term time only), pro rota

**Contract Type:** Temporary 12 month contract

**Closing date:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June

**Short listing:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June

**Interviews:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June (Times TBC)