How Better Play Makes Better Schools
Why?
Play makes up 20% of school life

Per Year
231 hours
37 days
7.4 weeks

Primary Years
1.4 years
Childhood has changed...

Children have not

UK Children screen time average 5 hours per day
Habitat Loss

TIME

SPACE

PERMISSION
Which school?

- Playtimes are a source of many low level problems?
- Playtimes are OK but are a wasted opportunity
- Play times are amazing and the best they could be
We don’t have to choose between play and learning
How?
OPAL is...

- A strategic approach to improving 20% of school
- A structured programme for culture change
- 18 to 24 months of guided school improvement
The process

• 18 point audit covering all decision making
• Action planning – review
• INSET, Parent, Grounds
• Award and final plan
What?
Do we know it works?

- Over 230 schools across UK
- Ofsted, APPG, Uni of Glos, Public Health England
- Toronto Education Board, NZ and Aus
Do we know it works?

- 10 minutes more teaching time ptpd
- 80% drop in negative incidents
- 75% increase in grounds access by time
- 80% increase in grounds access by area
- Huge core skills improvements
- Universal equality and inclusion gains
What now?
UNCRC Article 31

Every child and young person has the right to rest, play and leisure.
Further reading