



'Respectful and resilient; being the best that we can be.'

Timothy Hackworth Primary School



Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2026

### OPAL Update- Use of Helmets

#### CRC Article 31- All children have the right to play and rest.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing active care and engaging and inspiring play opportunities through our OPAL provision, we regularly review how children can safely enjoy outdoor play.

Throughout the next few weeks, we will be introducing some new OPAL Zones which have a focus on developing as many play types as possible. One of these new areas will be through the introduction of a *Wheel Zone*, a play zone where children will be able to access and enjoy equipment including skateboards, scooters, balance bikes, wheeled garden toys, suitcases and pushchairs. The list is endless. 😊

After careful consideration, we have decided not to make the wearing of cycle helmets compulsory during outside provision. This decision is based on guidance from play specialists at the OPAL programme who recognise the importance of balancing safety with children's health, wellbeing and opportunities for active play.

Please see the attached guidance which has been used to inform our decision, alongside our OPAL Policy.

Our approach is based on Risk-Benefit Assessment, which recognises that children learn valuable skills through experiencing challenge and managing risks within a supervised environment. As the size of this OPAL Zone will be offered on a very small scale, will not be near a main road and will not involve longer periods of time, we have used the guidance to inform what is right for our school.

When enjoying longer bike rides outside of our school grounds, or when riding a bike near to the roads, we would always continue to encourage children to wear a correctly fitted helmet and action Article 19, the right to be safe.

As always, if you have any questions about our play provision, please do not hesitate to get in touch and discuss anything further.

Thank you for your continued support. The children are certainly enjoying being part of our OPAL journey and the impact to date is tremendous. We look forward to continuing to share further updates with you.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs. L. Boulton*

*Mrs. Simpson-May*

Head Teacher

Deputy Head Teacher

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