



Policy regarding the use of helmets during wheeled play

This decision was made after careful consideration and consultation with our Opal mentor, following the official Opal guidance. One of the key documents we reviewed was the *Guidance for Managing Risk in Play Provision*, which reassured us that our school's approach to risk aligns with the Opal ethos and national guidance.

Research indicates that poorly fitted, damaged, or incorrectly sized helmets can pose significant risks. As a school, it would not be feasible to guarantee that every helmet is correctly fitted for every child at all times. The Opal approach is based on a **risk-benefit model**, which acknowledges that all aspects of life involve some level of risk. Our responsibility is to help children learn how to manage those risks effectively.

At Carnarvon, we take this responsibility seriously. We regularly hold risk-benefit assemblies to teach children how to assess and mitigate risks themselves. For example, during our assembly introducing scooters, the children collaboratively developed their own safety rules, such as:

- Scooting in one direction only
- Staying within a designated zone
- Keeping speed to a minimum

We are still in the early stages of our Opal journey, but we are following the example of hundreds of schools across the UK and beyond who have successfully implemented these principles. Our goal is to nurture confident, independent children who can assess situations and make safe choices.

Our play team is trained to carry out dynamic risk assessments, and we continually monitor play to ensure safety. If you prefer that your child does not use wheeled equipment without a helmet, we completely respect your decision. Please inform your child's class teacher so we can support your choice.