**Minutes**

**Multi-schools meeting – Southend**

**Virtual meeting**

**15th October 2020**

**In attendance**

Lancaster

St Christopher’s

Kingsdown

**Apologies –** St Nicholas

**Minutes**

It was great to meet up again with the schools involved in our Southend MSC strand following our last meeting in February. Any plans we had for a summer term event had to be put on hold but here we were making more plans!

After our normal introductions we followed up an idea at our last meeting about creating assemblies across Southend to educate children about out our differences. This already happens across the Essex local authority, but we want this to be influenced by the children of Southend. The group thought assemblies should include a focus on the qualities inside somebody, a focus on strengths, talk about the different aged special schools and facts on what makes us all different. To support this the children also want a short video that involves the special schools and could be part of the assembly.

Next, we discussed how we could get more schools involved in our project. In Essex now we have over 330 schools signed up and it would be great if Southend could eventually have all its schools signed up to the MSC. To get more involved the children want to send emails, make phone calls, send out posters (idea to come back to) and to add a video building on the idea of a video that could be included in a whole school assembly. These ideas will be followed up with the Southend local authority.

Following straight on from that, I reminded the group about our poster competition. Of the schools involved so far, we want their schools to design posters that showcase what we do/are trying to do so that they can be professionally designed and then sent out to schools. The deadline for entries will be January 2021 with the winner then picked by our ambassadors. Our conversations then led us to talk about Covid-19, what is going well and what is hard right now. Feedback included comments on;

* Social distancing is hard to keep going, I miss my friends from other bubbles, could schools think of way’s in big spaces, like playgrounds, where we can at least see and speak to them.
* One school has had webcams installed in every classroom so that groups can stay connected and stay in touch.
* Getting children and schools to focus on the positives is a good idea.
* Children are missing the opportunities gained on trips.
* The fact schools stayed partly open during lockdown really helped some children.
* Hard not seeing all family members due to health conditions and other lockdown rules.

All the children spoke well about their experiences and thoughts.

We finished by following up another idea from our set of February meetings where we were hoping to host a talent show in the summer. In Essex we had similar plans and hosted a virtual talent show instead. We asked the group if this was something that would like and ideas to think about. A range of ideas came back including to have real judges that could include celebrities such as Simon Cowell, use big spaces in schools to record a range of different talents, include presenters, have a gold buzzer element to the show and ensure there are certificates. Letters will be sent and plans will be discussed to see if we can get something arranged for 2021.

We thanked everyone for attending and then named our star of this meeting which was Kieran from Lancaster school for some brilliant ideas on the assemblies and videos to create awareness.

Next meeting – TBC