**Minutes**

**Multi-schools meeting – Chelmsford**

**Tuesday 17th November**

**Virtual meeting**

**In attendance**

Columbus

Baddow Hall

Priory Primary

Essex Employment team

Essex SEND team

**Apologies –** Thaxted, Gallywood infants, Tollesbury, Hatfield Heath, St Josephs, Elmwood, Wentworth, Highwood, Perryfields, Darcy school, Trinity Road, St Michaels

**Minutes**

A small virtual meeting in Chelmsford had its benefits as we were able to get round a lot quicker for each child to share their views. The meeting started in good time as we discussed Covid-19. The children spoke about how not seeing friends, family members (especially grandparents), not having sleepovers and not being able to visit animals in the zoo was all very difficult but that schools staying open was good and the meetings via the computer (just like this) were a very good way of working, especially in saving the environment.

Our second discussion point was presented by the Essex Employment team. They asked the group to think about their dream jobs. The list included teaching, being a policeman, working in health or being a pilot. This was followed up by the types of hobbies children are interested in which included seeing animals and looking after them, gaming, signing and playing sport. Similar themes seem to be coming up from each group and the team explained how these hobbies can be linked to future job opportunities. It is also great to see how so many children want jobs that help others, whether that’s humans or animals! The employment team will be working in local areas to increase opportunities.

As we flew through the first part of the agenda, we also asked one more question before the break. I asked the group what the most important issues to them and their friends were right now;

* Pollution
* Recycling
* Caring for animals
* Looking after the forests
* Supporting families

The ideas are forming part of a list that will be voted on in 2021 and form the next couple of years focus areas.

After our break the Essex SEND team presented to the group about the POET survey. Firstly, the group were asked how they currently share their views within school. This list included pupil council surveys, assemblies, votes in class, school council and linking the multi-schools council back to the rest of the school (which is just what I like to hear!!) and expressing how they feel through subjects such as meditation. The second part was about what more they would like in their schools and some shared practice here as one school liked the idea of sharing views in assemblies and by having more of a say in lessons but another idea was for children to have regular meetings with the head to feedback ideas and then see what happens as a result. All useful feedback as part of the Essex POET pledge which we will be hearing more about.

Finally, we spoke about our school awards event. We hope by the summer term we can run an event celebrating school’s involvement in the multi-schools council but we need some award categories. The children want to see awards for;

* Kindness and helping others
* Anti-bullying
* Preparing children for the future
* A good curriculum
* Helping children to make progress
* Inclusion

More information about the awards event will be released in 2021 with schools only qualifying if they get involved in the MSC!

Our star for this meeting was Danilo from Baddow Hall for speaking confidently, helping those around him and sharing some good views on Covid-19.

Next meeting – Wednesday 10th March (Virtual)

**Follow up points**

* **It was a challenge to hear everyone due to it being virtual – please email over any follow up points by December 2020.**
* **How do you share this with the rest of your school – let us know!?**
* **Can you put in place any of the pupil views ideas from the POET discussion?**