

## Minutes

### Multi-schools meeting - Brentwood

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### Virtual meeting

#### In attendance

West Horndon Primary

Shenfield St Mary's

Endeavour

Quilters

Mayflower High

ECC SEND Inclusion partner

ECC SEND Team

**Apologies** - Shenfield High, St John's, ECC SEND Quadrant Manager, South Green Junior School

#### Minutes

Really good attendance for this one as we had large groups from many of the schools in attendance, all using different computers. We started with our usual introductions and an update on our topics for the next three academic years.

Starting the meeting, we spoke about the need for more visual impairment awareness in schools. The children had many questions they wanted answered by our group:

- How do they get around?
- Is everything scary?
- What are some of the most difficult things?
- Do you get bullied?
- Does everyone who is blind have a guide dog?
- How do they train guide dogs?
- How much do you trust your guide dog?

- How safe does your school feel?
- What could we do to help you?
- Do you write on paper or using a computer?

Next up on the agenda was the children's ideas about a big awareness event that we could run in the next academic year. Ideas included a big play bringing different abilities together, workshops on autism/ADHD, a sports day including some level of swimming, a talent show demonstrating different abilities, assemblies led by children, a school trip to an eye hospital to learn about visual impairments, a big poster competition and visits to other schools to spread awareness or a farm visit next year linked to our key topic of animal cruelty. We will be comparing our notes from local areas and then following up on these. It was then time for a break!

After our break the children returned full of ideas. We started by discussing their ideas on how to promote better safety online and prevent bullying. The group came up with;

- An app on each site that gives warnings and bans people for improper social media use
- Advice on knowing the person, being kind and stranger danger
- More education in schools and for parents
- Clearer phone numbers to report bullying
- Hear from people who have been bullied
- Better privacy setting controls
- Bigger bans - up to 5 years
- More awareness on password protection
- Companies working quicker to remove posts
- Zero tolerance on racism online
- Better policing of online difficulties

We will be taking these ideas forward as part of an Essex campaign.

Next up was a discussion on self-esteem and how we could help children to feel better about themselves in schools and in life. Ideas ranged from having an adult to speak to, including more councillors in schools, more awareness assemblies about our differences, improving listening skills, more worry boxes, praise people for successes, talking not bottling up emotions, more encouragement, self-esteem workshops, self-esteem books, help to find what you love, more of a chance to show off your talents, learn about peoples

personal challenges and more displays in schools. The question also sparked some good conversations about individual challenges with speech, dyslexia and diabetes - we would love to follow up these conversations with some podcasts (I said I would note this down). It was also about focusing on saying YET not CAN'T.

Our final agenda point was to discuss our summer challenge at Mount Snowdon. The group came up with ideas on how we could spread awareness of what we are doing. The ideas were things such as adverts in local communities, a video to promote, pieces in Newspapers, leaflets, posters made in schools (popular), pupils doing their own min-challenges in schools, getting information in school newsletters, share some pictures of Snowdon, non-uniform day's in schools, a talk in an assembly or a sponsored skip. Another idea was about passing on a relay baton between schools, a bit like an Olympic torch, and this is an idea we could come back to.

Our star of this meeting was Amara from Quilters for talking very openly about her diabetes but also lots of good ideas for us to focus on!

Next meeting - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 10am - 11:30am, Venue TBC let us know if you would like to host ASAP.

### **Follow up points**

- **Can you do anything to support us with our fundraiser building on the ideas in these minutes? Here is our go fund me page - <https://gofund.me/7b5f2b51>**