

Minutes

Multi-schools meeting - Chelmsford

Wednesday 16th June 2021

Virtual meeting

In attendance

Baddow Hall Junior

Cathedral school

St Michaels

ECC SEND Navigator

Essex Youth Service

Apologies - Hatfield Heath, St Joseph's, Thaxted, Wentworth, Danbury Park, Broomfield, Newlands, Thriftwood

Minutes

Our Chelmsford meeting was a much smaller one this time, combined with first visits, fire alarms and problems with virtual technology but we got there in the end! Introductions were very quick, and I updated the group about the focus topics from September. Certificates will be going to **Columbus School and College** for their engagement over the last term.

Baddow Hall were our leading school for this meeting and I asked them what they would like to know about people who were blind or visually impaired. They had questions like how does it effect their everyday life, are you bullied for your differences, how do you read/write and what jobs could you do? Questions will be put to our VI group. We then moved on to discuss ideas on a big event to break down negative perceptions towards children with SEND and mental health difficulties. Ideas included;

- Something that ensured it raised a lot of money at the same time as bringing people together
- More assemblies in schools to raise awareness of our differences

Following this the children discussed social media and the use of it across Essex and beyond. We wanted to think of ways to better encourage how children use it and prevent bullying. We had a list of ideas including clear block buttons on every social media site, better sign up checks so we know people are actually real and linked to their ages displayed on people's profiles very clearly so children know who is safe. We will be looking at our other ideas and thinking of some campaigns. At this point St Michaels joined us as we started to discuss self-esteem and the things that could be done to better support the levels in children. We had;

- The fish philosophy - learn from Baddow Hall
- More encouragement and smiling in schools
- More positive, clear comments
- Having the right people to speak to at the right time - and this could be different for everyone
- Much better action on bullying

These ideas will be taken forward with our mental health service connections.

Our final agenda point was to look at ways of raising the profile of a big MSC event this academic year. We will be climbing Mount Snowdon and the children said we should have information shared in school assemblies, potentially with a video, get schools selling ice lollies and involve the parents, a bake sale, non-uniform day (popular), posters made by children and share our go fund me page. We will be asking our network of schools to give some of these a go!

Our star of this meeting was Reggie from Baddow Hall for speaking very well throughout and going into a good level of detail!

Next meeting - Tuesday 19th 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>**