

Minutes

Multi-schools meeting - Colchester

Wednesday 9th June 2021

Virtual meeting

In attendance

Little Garth

Langenhoe

Doucecroft

Heathlands

NEECA

Colchester District Council

ECC Social Care x2

ECC SEND team

Apologies - St Michaels, Lawford, Little Pumpkins, Camolous, Parsons Heath, Roach Vale, Stanway primary, St Johns, Prettygate, Brinkley Grove, Highfields, St Peters, Braiswick

Minutes

We were pleased to once again meet with our Colchester group which over time has been one of our leading areas in Essex. After our introductions I let the group know about their two new head girls - well done to Lexi and Isabella who will be involved moving forwards. I also spoke about the new focus topics from September as voted on by the children - Racism, Animal Cruelty and Keeping Active! There were certificates from last term for - **Millfields, Lawford and St Michaels!**

The first agenda item was to ask children what they wanted to learn about people who may be blind or visually impaired. Questions followed such as, how does it work with guide dogs, how do people get dressed, how do they read school timetables, what helps them to write, will it effect their life and how,

what alternative activities do you enjoy, what would help you more in school and how would you drive, are a selection of them.

This question was followed up by gaining children's ideas on an inclusive event they would like to see sometime in the next academic year to raise awareness of differences. Ideas included;

- A celebration festival, involving music, fayre games, raising awareness of differences and considering different needs.
- A sports day
- Talent show
- A group trip

Ideas discussed will be compared with those from other areas of Essex to see what is most popular.

We then moved onto children's use of social media. We know this has increased throughout the pandemic and although it can be used positively it can also be negative too. We discussed ways this could be addressed and the children would like to see more education in schools and for parents (very popular), support groups to help those who are bullied, longer and stricter bans if you don't use it properly and working with children to build more real life friends rather than focusing online. We then paused for a well-earned break.

The next question focused on self-esteem. Through our work in schools we have seen a low level of self-esteem in young people and the group were asked to think of ways to improve this. There were suggestions such as having I can statements at the start of each day, a greater focus on children's varying talents, more peer to peer support (popular), more compliments, promotion of kindness and thought boxes around schools. Ideas will be shared with mental health teams and ideas developed.

The time really did fly and for our last agenda item we discussed our big summer fundraiser. 25 people from Essex are climbing Mount Snowdon in August to raise funds for the MSC and awareness of what we are doing. We need support to promote this event and their ideas included;

- Getting children/schools to make posters and share them far and wide!
- Making the most of social media
- Holding a raffle
- Going on radio
- Doing a Tik Tok dance (might need help with this one!)

- *Get sponsorship forms out to schools*
- *Getting children to do a sponsored walk even if they can't do the climb with us*
- *More emails out to schools*

Star of the meeting went to Arthur from Doucecroft school for being so enthusiastic about the meeting and covering such a wide range of ideas in his answers!

Next meeting - Wednesday 13th October, 10am - 11:30am, if you would like to host please let us know 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>**