

Minutes

Multi-schools meeting - Basildon

Wednesday 06th October 2021

Circles Alternative Provision (Stock site)

In attendance

Circles Alternative Provision

Cherry Tree Primary

Apologies - Glenwood, Lee Chapel, Montgomery

Minutes

It was fantastic to have a new setting on-board in Circles alternative provision and we very pleased that they agreed to host our first Basildon meeting of the year. The farm setting was brilliant and it meant we could also host our first ever outside MSC meeting! The final record was also the fact we were joined by not one but three different dogs with some brilliant French names.

After all the introductions (including the dogs) we started our agenda by thinking about how to get more children active, a priority for this group moving forwards. Ideas included more games within the curriculum (active learning), better youth club centres, a wider range of activities on the curriculum, therapy dogs in schools that can be walked, forest schools for all year groups and less pressure on sporting activities. We will be working with Active Essex on this area.

Following this we spoke about school transport for those who may get a taxi or bus to school from home. The group made various points:

- Drivers need to build a good relationship with us and be consistent
- To be placed on transport where we get on with other children
- For transport to be on time - or if it's not for us to be told
- Make sure it is comfy
- Having staff members you trust
- Air con for the summer

There was also a conversation about how important home to school transport is and it is part of the school day or at least that is how it should be seen.

We had time for one more discussion point before a break and a walk through the woods. We spoke about how children could feel better prepared for adulthood. We had the perspective of children from both primary and secondary settings, and they would like to see more careers advice at an earlier age (popular), learning more life skills, being stretched further, doing lessons on money/taxes/bills and things that are relevant to adults and better work experience opportunities. It was said that work experience opportunities seem to be getting less and less. We then stopped so people could stretch their legs, along with the dogs!

After the break more children from Circles AP joined us and got involved straight away with our midnight walk discussions. When we host midnight walks in 2022 the group would like to see awareness on different religions, obstacles along the way, lamps, different check points helping people to refuel, make sure the ground is flat so people with all abilities can join in, invite dogs along, have it so people can walk or run and have a theme for people to focus on. All these points will be taken forward to our ambassadors who are involved in the planning.

Our final agenda item was to discuss the barriers that may stop some children from getting active. The list included;

- Negative Mindsets
- Fear
- Low confidence
- Too much competition
- Not enough variety of sports
- Controlling parents
- Money issues
- Lack of opportunities

These will also form part of our work with Active Essex.

The meeting finished in our normal way as we chose a star of the meeting. The star for this meeting went to Libby from Cherry tree for her contributions throughout but especially her comments about make sure the ground was even so that all people could join in with the midnight walks.

Next meeting - Thursday 17th March , 10am - 11:30am, Venue TBC let us know if you would like to host ASAP.

Follow up points

- Can you act on any of the 'Keeping active' ideas from agenda item 1?
If you can tell us before our next meeting we will reward your children and school with a certificate and it will help us to share good practice!