

Minutes

Multi-schools meeting - Brentwood

Tuesday 5th October 2021

Virtual meeting

In attendance

Dr Walkers

West Horndon

Quilters

Shenfield St Marys

St Johns

Mayflower

Active Essex

Apologies - ECC EF, Larchwood

Minutes

Our Brentwood area continues to grow and this meeting marked our first of the new academic year across the whole of our Essex strand. I gave the schools a brief update of our VI project to kick us off before going straight into our first discussion point 'Keeping Active'. For the next three years children would like us to focus on this area and they had a range of ideas about how this could be done better in and outside of schools including:

- Better promotion of the daily mile (popular)
- More than just a 'daily mile'
- Better range of after school clubs
- More playground organised games
- Use role models such as Joe Wicks
- Get older students to work as mentors to younger children and doing things like buddy walks
- Encourage better travel to school
- Have weeks dedicated to different sports like Paralympic weeks (popular)

- More PE lessons
- Push more outside learning
- Forest schools

We are confident that we are going to continue collecting lots of ideas from across the county and are going to work hard with Active Essex and other partners to look at expanding these ideas.

Next up we discussed home to school transport. Not everyone on the virtual call gets home to school transport and if they didn't, we asked them to think about what would make a good journey. From those that do they were able to talk about their own experiences and common themes were things like having music available on journeys (popular), friendly drivers, the same driver for consistency, more chilled zones within the transport, pillows available, better managed travel times, portable chargers, and better accessibility for wheelchairs such as ramps. We even enjoyed some singing from West Horndon - spice girls are still popular! These ideas will form part of a larger piece of work being conducted by some of our ambassadors, Essex county council and other families. We even enjoyed

Before stopping for a break, we discussed preparing for adulthood. We have heard from many children that at times they don't feel as if they are always prepared for transitions and lots more could be done. The children want to see more life skills in schools (especially cooking), better work experiences opportunities/days at a younger age, having better systems in place in schools to learn more about money and other finances, having mentors and working better with parents. As with the transport question this will form part of a wider piece of work with the Essex preparing for adulthood time. We then stopped for a break!

Everyone was refreshed, back on time and ready to go! In 2022 we plan to do some midnight walks across the county to raise awareness and money for the multi-schools council and we hope lots of you can be involved! We want the children of the MSC to design these events and they had a range of ideas:

- Include glow sticks
- Make sure there are lighted venues
- Have a treasure hunt or games included in the walks?
- Fancy dress
- Have different symbols to collect along the way
- Have a stamp book to collect how many miles you do

- Ensure we have singing and music along the way
- Have some stalls at the start where things can be sold
- Make sure we have high visibility jackets

We are still in the planning stages of this event, but all ideas will be carried forwards.

Our final agenda item was to consider what might prevent some young people from keeping active or getting involved in sport. We had some very honest conversations about not having enough of a range of activities, people's disabilities being highlighted, not enough awareness about autism, people having negative mindsets, negative comments from other children or not having transport to get to and from clubs. We will pair these thoughts up with getting children more active and see what we can work on. Some honest conversations from children too about how they may be seen because of their disability.

That was the last of our questions for this meeting and one we thoroughly enjoyed being apart of. The star of the meeting was Ayla from Dr Walkers for her input throughout the meeting, thinking outside the box and showing some great confidence!

Next meeting - Wednesday 16th March, 10am - 11:30am, VENUE TBC

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!**