

Minutes

Multi-schools meeting - Harlow

Thursday 7th October 2021

Virtual meeting

In attendance

Pear Tree Mead

Hereward

Cooks Spinney

St Lukes

St Albans

Churchgate

Active Essex

ECC SEND team

Apologies - Fawbert & Barnard, Bishops Stortford College, Henham & Ugley

Minutes

Another area that is growing in the WEST is our Harlow group. We are delighted that we were joined by so many children and after a few technical difficulties we got underway. Our first item was to look at how we could get children more active. A range of ideas included having much more PE in schools, a better emphasis on healthy eating, more sport events, promoting the daily mile, having whole sport days in the term (popular) and just talking more about being healthy. We will be working with Active Essex and other groups to work on these ideas.

Secondly, we focused on home to school transport and how this process could be better. This sparked comments on having more vehicles available, making sure ALL transport is accessible, make sure ramps are clearly available, disabled parking spaces in all schools, positive reward systems used, pupil passports and

having equipment available for enjoyment. These ideas are forming part of our inquiry into transport across Essex.

The ideas continued to flow at a good pace, so we moved on next to discuss preparing for adulthood. The group discussed ways they felt they could feel better prepared when leaving school;

- More visits to workplaces (popular)
- More responsibility around the school
- Buddy systems (popular)
- More role models coming into school and speaking
- Positive mindsets about next steps (growth mindsets)
- Having set 'independence days' focusing on various skills
- Go with parents to the workplace
- Work better with secondary schools before going up
- Have training days in schools of all age groups

The ideas will be carried over to our PFA conversations in Essex. It was then time to take a break from the screen!

Next up when everyone returned we discussed our 2022 fundraiser. We will be looking to host midnight walks across Essex to raise awareness and funding but we want the children to design what these should look like. Ideas included;

- How far you walk should = the amount of donations you get
- Posters advertising the event in local communities
- Snack stops
- Entertainment
- Things to buy
- Mini activities
- Glow in the dark wristbands
- Make sure people who can't walk are included
- Fancy dress
- Make sure we advertise on social media
- Have headbands available
- Torches

We are speaking to 9 different groups across Essex and then over 20 young people in a working group to decide before the end of the year how the walks will look.

Finally, back to sport! We already had ideas on how children could be more active but we wanted to know what might stop children from being active. Comments included people in wheelchairs not being included enough, children spending too much time on technology, not enough equipment, lack of money or transport, sports being too competitive, fear, not enough no contact sports in schools and parents not being motivated enough either. We will again work with sport partners to look at these views further.

Incredibly hard to choose again but our star of this meeting was Gracie from Cooks Spinney Primary school for involvement throughout, especially with her comments about adapting school sports, so everyone is included.

Next meeting - Tuesday 15th 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!**