

## Minutes

### Multi-schools meeting - Braintree

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

#### Howbridge Primary

#### In attendance

Howbridge - Host

St Francis

John Ray

Notley Green

Birchanger

Silver End

Henham & Ugley

**Apologies** - Terling, Beckers Green, Great Easton, John Bunyan, ECC SEND facilitator

#### Minutes

Unfortunately, covid-19 is still affecting schools and their teams which resulted in a last-minute venue change and a few schools having to drop out, however we still had a really good number in attendance. A massive thank-you to Howbridge for hosting at last minute and the other schools for adapting.

Our meeting started with all those who did manage to get there with a focus on Racism. The children spoke about not making fun of each other, creating an anti-bullying programme, using a slogan such as 'Stand up to racism', have schools running local campaigns, have anti-bullying champions, take into account how it effects peoples mental health, involve the community in challenging perceptions, educate better in primary schools (popular), look at how we can prevent it and look at positive language to be used.

Next up was the conversation around how children are recovering from Covid-19 and what support could be put in place. Load of ideas were noted;

- Getting back into a routine is helpful
- Make sure we are washing hands (popular)
- Bring back more clubs
- Use technology where we can
- More mental health support from staff
- Face masks should still be allowed to be worn (popular)
- Schools should take health + safety into account
- Keep supporting scientists to find a full cure
- Encourage friends supporting each other
- For children to have better links into mental health support

Ideas will be considered as part of our coming out of Covid document.

After our short break due to so many brilliant ideas we moved things around slightly and discussed our 2022 awards event. We wanted ideas on what awards the children felt should be handed out this year. A great list followed including a happiness award, a helpful award, anti-bullying award, anti-racism award, keeping healthy award (popular), responsibility award, courage award, social action award, dedication award, community award (popular), citizenship award, eco award, most improved award, Unique award, creative award, LSA/MDA award and a well-being award. The most popular ideas across Essex will be taken forwards.

This then led us to discuss ideas to support children's speaking and listening skills. We had some great suggestions:

- Get children outside more (popular)
- Have more clubs focusing on social skills (popular)
- Board games to build communication
- Peer mentoring - this should focus on encouraging children to talk about their feelings
- Having 'friend station's' where children support each other on the playground
- More speaking and listening games
- Have signing in schools (Popular)
- Posters in schools encouraging speaking and listening skills
- Mix groups of children up to encourage interaction
- Develop adults listening skills
- Give rewards for improved social interaction skills
- Use technology to support

All useful feedback that is forming part of our wider speaking and listening project across Essex.

The star for this meeting was Marcus from Birchanger primary for some great ideas throughout, especially about social interaction and the way he encouraged others. A big thank-you again to Howbridge for hosting the meeting at such short notice - it was a pleasure to met so many amazing children!

Next meeting - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 10am - 11:30am, Venue TBC, if you would like to host please let us know ASAP.

### **Follow up points**

- Can you send through any suggestions of improvements for our website - <https://www.multischoolscouncil.org.uk/>
- Could you work with schools local to you and start anti-racism campaigns?
- Could you create some anti-bullying champions at your school?