

## Minutes

### Multi-schools meeting - Thurrock

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022

#### In attendance

East Tilbury Primary

Belmont Castle - Host

**Apologies** - West Thurrock Academy, Purfleet primary, Stanford-le-hope primary

#### Minutes

Here we were again in Thurrock as we continue our mission in trying to ensure the children of Thurrock can have a voice within our growing network. Two schools were in attendance and we kicked off the meeting by finding out what the group had been up to since the last meeting. East Tilbury have a video ready for us that they are going to send over, and Belmont Academy are in the process of making some videos that will be part of a series. We have asked if these videos could be sent over to [mschoolscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:mschoolscouncil@gmail.com) by the end of the academic year.

It was then the turn of the topic vote! We know in the Essex local authority, through working out how best to organise the MSC, that the children would like to have some focus topics to focus on which also helps give the group a bit of structure. The group had a list of topics they had influenced since the last meeting and then all had a vote on what they felt where the most important topics for children;

1. Keeping safe online
2. Equal rights
3. Saving animals
4. Racism
5. Persevering
6. Mental Health

7. Working with parents
8. Promoting happiness
9. Keeping children in school

Belmont castle had been pro-active with this and had asked children across their school. This left East Tilbury to submit their votes. The group handed them in, and the results would be revealed after the break!!

Our last conversation before the break was all about the impact of covid-19 and what the group felt about it currently. Loads of ideas included having more trips outside again, how family were really missed, having more opportunities to talk about our feelings, some children still feel worried, we need support on how to play together again, some of us need catch up with our learning support, more spontaneous lessons in school, a focus on 'fun', stick to zones on playgrounds as this worked well, we should learn about the impact of covid, it has affected our mental health, have more peer support in schools, respond better to children's needs by asking them, mix year groups again especially at lunchtimes, provide more talking support and encourage back to sports clubs. Lot's to consider and this will help form part of our covid-19 impact document that will be shared across Essex. We stopped there for a break, and it was great to see the group interacting with each other.

Straight after the break we revealed the most popular topics. So from September the group would like to focus on **Saving the environment, Racism and Saving animals**. In what turned out to be our last conversation due to time, we spoke next about our website. I shared our website with the group and asked for feedback. They said;

- Have a voting poll on there
- More videos
- Have quizzes
- Get some adverts on there
- Link better to YouTube
- More information on Autism/ADHD
- Information on health conditions
- More on who runs the Multi-Schools Council
- More pictures
- Links to other charities
- Combine Thurrock and Southend schools (**this is something we will now take forwards**)

- A Feedback page
- A meeting wall
- A School stories section

We will be working hard on our website over the next few months.

And that, was that! Really good engagement from all - we were particularly impressed with the way Belmont Castle had included the whole school. Star for this meeting however went to Aoife from East Tilbury for some brilliant ideas throughout!

Next meeting - TBC, *look to combine Thurrock/Southend Schools from September 22*

#### **Follow up points**

- Before the summer holidays could the videos be shared with us.
- Have you got links to other schools in your area - could we get them to sign up?