

Minutes
Multi-schools meeting - Tendring
Holland Park
Tuesday 1st March 2022

In attendance

Holland Park

Spring Meadow

St Andrews

Two Village

Holland Haven

Apologies - Chase Lane, Market Field, Alsford

Minutes

It was brilliant to have everyone back together again after our last set of meetings becoming disrupted due to the on-going pandemic. We are full of hope that we can now plan on the other side but at the same time considering how many people are still massively affected.

Our first topic and the key topic for this term was Racism. I asked the group to think of things we could do as a collective to tackle this on-going problem. Ideas included;

- Sharing a book list in schools to help educate
- Create anti-racism posters - maybe start a competition
- Connect the MSC with more people around the world
- Spread awareness on social media
- Learn more about how it affects people
- Use role models such as Martin Luther King

We had a diverse group attending this meeting and these ideas will be added to others that we collect over the next few weeks.

Next up was our discussion on what it's been like for children coming back to school and going back out and about following the lockdowns and high numbers of Covid-19. The group focused on what has helped and what could help more and came up with using zoom more creatively in class, just valuing being together again, promoting team sports, opportunities to read, visits from councillors who can answer, and questions children might have, talking time with friends and positive messages via videos. Ideas will form part of our 'Coming out of the pandemic' document.

Before our break we had time to discuss one more item. The group focused on how we could help improve children's speaking/listening skills and their ability to socialise as this has been highlighted as a key issue, again influenced by covid-19. The group would like to see more after school clubs coming back, more ice-breaker games, better friendship group opportunities, play buddies, a poetry competition, use of audio books, more opportunities to learn sign language, older children working with younger children, zoom calls with children not in school and the use of voice recorders to help encourage some children. It was then time to stop for a break (Holland Park provided some wonderful muffins!!!).

After our break you could see the confidence growing in each child and it was wonderful to see different children mixing. We then had to discuss our school awards event. For the first time in 2021 we held a special school's awards event where the children designed the types of awards they wanted to see as part of our event. I shared this list with the group who then came up with ideas of some new awards they would like to see. This included, social skills award, helping others award, friendship award disability awareness award(popular), compassionate award, perseverance award, anti-bullying award, diversity award(popular), Arts/performance award, health, and fitness award, saving the environment award, work in the community award, respect award, resilience award, integrity award, enthusiasm award, confidence award and education award. The most popular ideas across our 9 meetings will then help form our awards event at some point in 2022!

The final point to discuss was improvements for our website. We showed the group the current site and asked for ideas to improve it. Some great suggestions included;

- Links section - food vouchers, anti-bullying, donations to the MSC, wordsearches and quizzes
- More photos on the website (popular)

- More advertising videos
- More colour - yellow was suggested
- More individual stories
- A family tree - showing the structure of the MSC
- Videos about key points from the meeting
- Artwork - designed by the children
- An area on our key topics like Racism
- Suggestions box
- An area for people to ask questions

The ideas will be taken forward to our media team!

Our meeting closed in the same way as normal as we thanked everyone for coming and chose a star of the meeting. The star of this meeting was Scarlet from St Andrews primary for some real thinking outside the box ideas and a great attitude throughout!

Next Meeting - 29th June 2022, 10am - 11:30am, Holland Haven

Follow up points

- **Have you any books that you can recommend linked to anti-Racism?**
 - **Can you put any of the speaking and listening suggestions in place?**

Have you signed up to our 2022 Green Day? - If not contact us to find out more - mschoolscouncil@gmail.com