**The Multi-schools meeting agenda**

**Cooks Spinney**

**Wednesday 22nd June**

**10am – 11:30am**

**Clare G to chair**

**In attendance**

Cooks Spinney  
  
Churchgate  
  
St Albans  
  
Moreton

First, I must thank everyone who attended for making the meeting a joy to chair. I was blown away by your ideas and how well you were able to articulate and share your thoughts. I really enjoyed it – thank you.

**Minutes**  
We started the meeting by celebrating the schools which had carried out the follow up points from the previous meeting: Morton and Cooks Spinney had designed anti-racism posters. Kierran will be in touch to get your certificates to you. Well done, I hope to get to see some of your posters.   
  
The first discussion point was, ‘**what would help more young people come to school?**’. The group had some great ideas about how to tackle this issue:

* more non uniform days so that people can wear different clothes
* more clubs, such as:
  + breakfast clubs where you get to play with toys and have some toast
  + a fun club where you can get out equipment
  + art therapy where you can speak about what worries you
  + extracurricular activities that take place during school hours
* school bus to pick people up
* more opportunities to play games and bring them in to school
* flexibility to come into school at different times
* opportunities to share how you are feeling
* friends encourage you to come to school
* exercise
* fun in the playground
* make school uniform more affordable
* access to the gym trail
* use of a worry box
* a friend or family member comes to school for the day
* fresh air before lessons

The group highlighted how important emotional wellbeing and a support network is and how these can affect attendance. Many of their ideas focused on improving emotional wellbeing which would in turn improve attendance.

The group then discussed, **‘how can we raise awareness of animal cruelty?’**. The children suggested:

* posters
* assemblies to raise awareness, for example, about the rabbit symbol on make up which means it isn’t tested on animals)
* create a book or magazine
* visit the farm or pet’s corner in Harlow to learn about looking after animals
* lessons about animal cruelty
* animal fun days at school
* bring your pet to school day
* visit the Zoo
* involving Harlow council so that the issue can be tackled across Harlow
* charity event, such as an animal theme day to raise money
* create a website to persuade people to stop hurting and testing on animals
* vegetarian option at lunchtime
* defining what animal cruelty is and sharing this with everyone

The group were very passionate about this topic. Many students were keen to get ‘hands on’ with animals (through trips or having animals in school, for example) and promote animal care.

Following a quick break, the group discussed, ***‘what could we do to make sure more young people have their voices heard?’****.* Once again, the group had lots of fantastic ideas:

* put more young people in power – helping to make decisions
* posters, to raise awareness of how to help other people share their views. Some young people felt these should be shared throughout Harlow, and the world, so that everyone can be included
* get more people and more schools involved in the meetings
* have more opportunities to share your views with other people
* teachers to give more opportunities to share your views and more support to ensure everyone can take part
* schools take different children to each MSC meeting so that more people can experience it
* learn about and use alternative methods for communicating – such as sign language and translators.
* use resources and equipment to help people speak out, for example, microphones
* assemblies to share the message ‘everyone respects your answer and what you think’ to encourage everyone to speak
* give people lots of different ways to take part, for example, sending a message rather than talking out loud or having a friend help
* agree rules to ensure everyone’s voice can be heard

The final discussion point was, **‘how can we raise more awareness about gender diversity?’**. The group first discussed what they thought ‘gender diversity’ meant, including the use of pronouns, LGBTQ+ and challenging stereotypical ‘girl/boy’ roles. To raise awareness, they suggested:

* lessons to share the key messages. For example, it doesn’t matter if you are a boy or girl, you can do the same thing
* giving people choice about what they wear. Not forcing someone to wear something because of their gender
* share our hobbies so that people can see that lots of people like lots of different things
* have the opportunity to teach people how to play our different games – it doesn’t matter if you are a boy or girl
* share the message – it doesn’t matter your gender, what matters is how you act
* posters
* gender neutral toilet
* finding out people’s preferred pronouns
* celebrate Pride month and hang lots of Pride flags. This should include educating people about Pride. It has been celebrated for 50 years and we don’t learn about it in class
* never assume someone’s gender
* educate older people – grandparents and parents can have dated views
* a speaker to come into school and educate us
* learn how things have changed. For example, only boys could go in the army originally

The star of the meeting was Daisy from Cooks Spinney because of her wonderful contributions. It was a hard choice as you were all so brilliant!

**Follow up points from Kierran:**

* **Could you action any of the improving attendance ideas and then tell us about the impact of this?**
* **Can you share any good practice with us on educating about animal cruelty?**
* **Can you put in place any of the hearing from children ideas?**

**Bonus from me!:**

* **Do you have something to contribute to the newsletter? See the attached invite!**