**Minutes**

**Multi-schools meeting – Basildon**

**Tuesday 21st June 2022**

**Virtual meeting**

**In attendance**

Cherry Tree

Essex Virtual schools

**Apologies –** Canvey Island infants, Montgomery, St Joseph the worker, Canvey Junior

**Minutes**

It was a shame we could only get the one school in attendance for this meeting, but it still allowed us to collect some brilliant views from the young people involved, albeit from a virtual way of working. Our first discussion was around the issue of school attendance. After looking at the best way to collect feedback we gave the group some time to discuss ideas and then come back to us. The group wanted to see more rewards in schools that encourage them coming in, have more fun activities, support for those who may not have parents at home, more time with teachers to focus on bullying issues, more focus on mental health needs with adults asking, ‘are you okay?’, use the daily mile as a time to check in with young people and have more relaxation activities.

The second point was to discuss animal cruelty and the issues that may affect this. The group wanted to see more educational activities and then sharing this learning with other schools, more information on how to look after different animals and adverts from young people. We then moved on to discussing how we could hear from more young people, even if they don’t come to these meetings. Ideas included an app in the app store that children could access, a place on our website, ensure these ideas that come from the meeting are in a PowerPoint some more young people can hear about it and share it in their schools, have links to our website on every school’s website that is signed up to us.

The final discussion was about gender diversity, something the young people on this call said was quite difficult to discuss in terms of thinking of ideas. However, saying that they spoke quite a bit about making sure sports activities were for all genders, hold a marathon with both genders involved, mix up leagues to ensure more boys and girls play together, have a focus on celebrating individuality through fashion. The group noted that some sports do still have a gender label in terms of attracting a certain gender but that they were starting to see some changes.

We closed the meeting there and as they were the only school in attendance, we thanked them for coming and gave the whole school ‘star of the meeting’ rather than picking out one person. We will be working hard in the summer to increase attendance at all our meetings once we are back for the new academic year.

Next meeting – Monday 14th November 2022, Venue TBC, if you would like to host please let us know ASAP

**Follow up points**

* 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’s ideas?