**Minutes**

**Multi-schools meeting – Chelmsford**

**Thursday 16th June 2022**

**Virtual**

**In attendance**

Baddow Hall

Cathedral Primary

**Apologies –** Essex Virtual Schools, Highwood, Maylandsea, Broomfield

**Minutes**

So unfortunately, due to low numbers, we moved our Chelmsford meeting to a virtual one. We have already contacted some professionals who we hope will help us increase engagement in this area. Even though we had lower numbers it didn’t stop the brilliant ideas coming forward. The discussion online started with how we could improve school attendance for young people and the group suggested better reward systems in schools, extra free time, better support with mental health needs, buddy systems to support young people, praising positive attendance and more positive posters around the school. These ideas will form part of our overall picture and investigate school attendance.

The second agenda item was animal cruelty and how we could raise awareness on this issue. The group would like to see more visitors in schools talking about this (popular), stricter consequences for those that are abusive to animals, design posters in schools, have more awareness on the school curriculum, have more class pets in schools and do some sort of fundraiser to support charities. Again, ideas will form part of an Essex approach.

Flying through the agenda we went straight onto point four which was all about how we hear from more young people, especially if they are not involved in meetings link this. We had suggestions such as building confidence in young people to speak out, have a system in each class where children could give feedback, more partnerships with other schools (could link into good practice seekers), write letters to councillors about our work, have student leads on listening to children, use surveys on key topics. We will learn from this and see as a multi-schools council how many of the ideas we can put into place or encourage.

As we had been moving so quickly we carried on to the next discussion which was all about gender diversity. The group gave their thoughts on the main issues in regards to this topic. We spoke about needing more books in schools with female role models, making sure we push that point that boys and girls are equal, have more female role models in schools, challenge the perception around football that it’s a boys sport and use things like the 2022 world cup to highlight this, have more non-uniform day’s so children can express themselves. The group went on to highlight issues such as out of 36 referees at the world cup this year only 3 of them are woman, how is that right? We will be sharing this information with other schools and asking them to also debate these issues.

After a break we finished the meeting in a different way. Baddow Hall were keen to share with us a special PowerPoint they made for us all about their visit to United in Diversity. The children were fantastic, and we think it may of inspire Cathedral school to get involved next year. Thanks Baddow hall for taking the time to do this! Our star of this meeting was Naiara from Baddow Hall for speaking so well about the issues faced by girls when discussing gender diversity.

Next meeting – Wednesday 23rd 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?**