**Minutes**

**Multi-schools meeting – Tendring**

**Holland Haven**

**Wednesday 29th June 2022**

**In attendance**

Holland Haven

Spring Meadow

Cann Hall

Holland Park

Alsford

**Apologies –** Two Village, Ravens Academy, Hamford, ECC social care, Chase Lane, St Georges, St Josephs, Market Field, St Andrews

**Minutes**

In one of our higher attended meetings this term it was great to see some familiar faces once again, some who we hadn’t seen since before covid! There was a little traffic which meant we had a delayed start, but everyone was in good spirts. The meeting started with a discussion about school attendance and why some young people may struggle to come to school. Firstly, the group were saying some children felt embarrassed to come to school because of things that had happened previously, there was more anxiety about leaving parents, worried about being bullied or falling out with friends and being nervous about work and not being able to do it. They then discussed solutions such as having more therapy time in schools, having online learning still available as an option, more therapy dogs in schools, more nurture rooms, having staff that spend more time with children doing fun things, having more flexible timetables, more mindfulness activities in the morning, Lego activities and breakfast in every class like they used to with the magic breakfast charity. Lots of great suggestions to consider.

Our second agenda item was animal cruelty, and we asked the group what they thought we could do. Ideas included learn from our green day about how we better look after our environment, stop throwing plastic in the ocean, more animal shelters around, make posters, have visitors in schools talking about the issues, stronger punishments for mistreating, have assemblies in schools the issue, have a day learning about it, bring pets into schools for the day and talk about how you look after them, raise money for charities, use social media to build awareness, stop testing things on animals and make links with local organisations such as Colchester Zoo. After some did have busy journeys, we paused there for our break, but I reminded the group that 10 biscuits each were probably too many!!

Moving on after the break (I can report nobody had 10 biscuits) we spoke about how we could hear from more young people if they didn’t get the chance to come to these meetings or if they weren’t in school at all. This is what the group suggested;

* Having online meetings through the school year
* Voice recordings of the meetings
* Have a robot where people can join the meeting
* Make sure everyone is comfortable at meetings
* Have children feedback in their own assemblies
* Have more buddy groups
* Write letters in
* Release a questionnaire/survey
* Include a feedback space on our website
* Get schools to send across their comments even if they can’t attend
* Use social media as a way of posing questions to children
* Have clubs where children can talk more

We will be exploring as many options as possible.

The final agenda point was to look at gender diversity and the issues children wanted to bring up. This raised the following points;

* Clothes and sport should be for everyone
* Makeup is for everyone
* It shouldn’t matter what gender you are
* Does sport have to be mixed?
* Football should be for everyone
* Assemblies about no labels
* Shops should be thinking about challenging stereotypes with clothes
* Netball should be for everyone
* We should have a day in school to try other sports

The comments will all be taken forward and we will take them into account when planning or talking about anything in relation to gender diversity. The star of this meeting was Madi from Alsford primary for discussing her own challenges and giving some good points on each item.

**Next Meeting –** Thursday 10th November, 10am – 11:30am, Cann Hall

**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?