**Minutes**

**Virtual School MSC Meeting**

**Thursday 1st December**

**In attendance**

All Saints Harwich

St Thomas Moore School

Ivy Chimmeys

Larchwood

St Michaels

St Helena School

SEND IASSx2

**Apologies** –

**Minutes**

The meeting was held virtually, and it started with our usual introductions as we waited for everyone to settle down.

Our first item on the agenda was about anti-bullying and we have known that from speaking to young people, that bullying was the leading reason for why some people did not want to come into school. We, as an MSC, are looking to change that as a group. The young people had some great ideas on how we can change that, including making sure that you are not suffering alone, make sure that you speak to someone about it, which is a great idea because at MSC, we massively promote wellbeing and ensuring we speak to someone about how we are feeling. Another ideas included having an odd socks day which shows that we should embrace and celebrate our differences and we should not be ashamed, as well as providing children the life-skills they need to be able to equip by themselves with any minor friendships issues they may face when in either primary or secondary schools as well as having a room where a teacher can sit with a bully and discuss with them about the impact they are having on other children and raise awareness. The young people suggested having a buddy system where they can talk to them about any issues they may be facing. All these ideas will be taken forward with other ideas across the county.

Next up on the agenda was about deaf awareness and from previous meetings, many young people have been talking about wanting to learn sign language and they are keen to learn more about the deaf community. We have asked the young people; what questions can they think of that they would like to ask deaf people or how can we raise deaf awareness? Some suggestions including whether if they get bullied because they are not aware that they are ignoring or because they are different, can they hear vibrations, sounds or can they hear nothing? How does it have an impact on their day-to-day life and do they feel different? The young people came up with great thoughts including wanting to ask what can they do to make deaf people’s life easier; how can they help them? Young people have suggested wearing ear defenders so they can understand what it is like for deaf people as well as holding deaf awareness assemblies. MSC are hoping to raise this with some of the deaf units across Essex in January coming up.

We then went for a break so children can stretch their legs and take time away from the screen!

After our break, we discussed about MSC mascot! We are excited to introduce this as it would be our first ever MSC mascot, and we would like to launch this next year, so we asked the young people how they would design a mascot!

* Different objects.
* Blob fish.
* Butterflies (different patterns and different sizes to show that everyone is different.
* A person who has different hair colours and wearing glasses.
* Multiple of tall people (all showing different heights).
* Logo with different schools (this was mentioned previously in other meetings so seems to be a popular one!)
* Someone wearing a t-shirt that has MSC logo as well as having different patterns, hearing aids, glasses and an odd sock!
* Lion wearing a top that says awareness and wears hearing aids (hearing aids is a popular one!)
* Rainbow, showing that everyone is different.
* Jigsaw pieces with rainbow to show that everyone is different, but they all come together.
* Not all disabilities are visible.

All these ideas are wonderful, we certainly do have some popular suggestions! The ambassadors will meet in January, and they will decide on which mascot they like the most.

Our final discussion of the day was about the cost of living, and we asked the young people about their views and what have they heard about the topic. There were some very honest and open discussions from young people which shows that they are aware, and we need to raise these ideas back to the professionals.

* People are worrying about Christmas presents as their children will have less presents and they would have to prioritise having food on the table first.
* They think the living cost being raised is bad because it means some people can’t afford petrol, having food on the table and how to afford Christmas.
* Create posters to remind about making sure lights aren’t left on in schools.
* Really good suggestion about writing or going to the gas stations to get them to bring down the prices of petrol because they do have a choice.
* Regular train strikes, but how does that leave for people who don’t have a car?

This was a hard topic to talk about but the ideas as well as concerns shows that young people are aware of what is happening.

We then decided on our star of the meeting which was difficult as everyone contributed well this meeting! The star of the meeting went to Ava from Ivy Chimmeys as she had raised some really good ideas!

**Next meeting** – Tuesday 14th March 10am – 11am OR 2pm – 3pm

**Follow up points**

* Can you/do you include sign language in your school – tell us about it!
* How do you share these minutes with your school – tell us about it!