**Minutes**

**Multi-schools meeting – Tendring**

**Cann Hall**

**Thursday 10th November 2022**

**In attendance**

Cann Hall

Holland Park

Two Village

Chase Lane

Spring Meadow

**Apologies –** All saints Harwich (Attending virtual), Millfields (Attending virtual), Holland Haven, St Andrews

**Minutes**

One of our first visits to Cann Hall as they hosted this MSC meeting. A great feeling as people came into the room and it was great to be joined by some ambassadors too! The meeting started with our usual introductions as we waited for everyone to settle in.

Our first item on the agenda was anti-bullying. We know from speaking to young people that this was the leading reason for why some people don’t want to come to school and we want to look to change that as a group! Ideas on how we could do that included starting a campaign, having clear words/messages, an ad on tv or YouTube, make a video with young people, make sure we make it clear there are different forms of bullying, messages like ‘just be nice’, have more anti-bullying lessons at least once a month, more catch ups with staff, link in to charity work, understand why people might bully and use post-it notes in sessions so young people can write down their worries (something we promote in our resilience work!). All the ideas will be taken forward with other idea across the county.

Next up we discussed dead awareness. We know it’s something young people have been talking about and lot’s of people in the room said they would love to learn sign language. We asked the group for questions they have but also ideas they have on how to raise awareness. We discussed making a song that had signing with it, is it comfortable wearing hearing aids, use more technology, how do you learn song lyrics, have more translators available, how does it feel, what can we do to help, we should have more sign language lessons on the curriculum, have visits from young people who may be deaf, do a video about this topic, have more visuals in schools, have a deaf awareness after school club, can you feel the vibration of music. We will be working with some of our deaf awareness units come January.

Before we stopped for our break, we managed to get our speakers working and we listened to a video from Clare Kershaw. Clare spoke about the importance of this group and in particular this work on school attendance. It was then time for the biscuits!!

After our break we focused on money and the cost of living. What are young people thinking about all of this?

* School meals at secondary school are too expensive
* Parents are stressed
* Parents not being able to afford Christmas presents
* There should be more support for food banks
* Food bills are becoming too much
* Worrying about losing houses
* The expense of wheelchairs
* The cost of electricity bills
* The cost of fuel

It’s important we take time to listen to young people about their concerns on this as they are clearly not immune to it. One young person asked if more could be explained on why the cost of things has gone up but also who’s fault is it?

Next up was moving on. The Essex virtual schools group want to understand what helps young people with moving on and change:

* Having friends around us and buddy systems
* Finding something we enjoy or like to help with the change
* Getting used to swapping classrooms and adults a little bit more
* Have a video so we can see things visually
* Think about things that will remain the same and not just the changes – make this clear to us
* Talk about it – prepare us

Really honest views here. The virtual school’s team will look at this and feedback to you all.

Our final discussion of the day was our idea to launch a multi-schools council mascot in 2023! This brought out the creative side in lots of young people in the room and I now have a stack of creative drawings! Boe and Charlie, two of our MSC ambassadors, led this part of the meeting. Suggestions for our mascot included;

* A patch up penguin
* An elephant wearing a top hat
* Make sure we use patches (popular)
* A fox
* A Beagle
* A colourful micro bite – (making sure we don’t get sued by Bill gates)
* A mole with glasses
* A Parrot (Popular)
* A Polar bear
* A rainbow
* Making sure it’s fluffy (popular)
* A Panda with a focus on racism
* Tortoise
* An armadillo
* An owl

We were SO impressed with explanations and drawings that went with these suggestions. We will be meeting as an ambassador team in January where we will decide on the mascot. All that was left to do was to get a picture of the group and choose our star of the meeting. This went to Harriet from Holland Park for the openness she used during our talk about the cost of living and the way she explained herself throughout.

**Next Meeting –** Friday 10th March 2023, 10am – 11:30am, Holland Park

**Follow up points**

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