

The Multi-school's council
Meeting Minutes
12th October - Oakview School
West Section

In Attendance

The Local Offer team

Oakview School

Orminston Park Academy

SEND Information Advice and Support Service (IASS)

Minutes

In the first ever meeting of its kind in this area we were warmly welcomed to Oakview special school in Loughton. We introduced ourselves and started the meeting.

Due to some technical problems (don't you just love technology!) we skipped over the area of discussing the MSC website. Firstly a chance to discuss next summer's special school games event and what, if any, new sports the schools would like to see added. The children said that football and athletics were two sports that had to stay. New ideas included tennis, softball and dance. A mention around Active Essex and the support they provide in terms of sport provision and how the day is planned. Orminston Park expressed an interest in providing young leaders to help run the Quad athletics.

Secondly we spoke about our talent show event and how this would be opened up to all schools across the Essex area. We brought together the idea of our show and the community fair and how we would like schools to host their own stalls at these events, primarily the community fair. Ideas for stalls included;

- Bungee run
- Glitter tattoos
- A mini café
- Homemade bread

I will be meeting with two ambassadors at the end of November to finalise these ideas.

We then moved onto a key area of our agenda this term 'mental health in schools'. The children were asked in ways they could improve school life for themselves and others and what aspects are currently impacting on children not feeling happy at school. The children said more breaks needed to be put in place including more hands on activities like yoga and trips out to break up the academic side of learning. The group also said that children needed more opportunities to build friendships and could do this in socialising opportunities with warm drinks and cakes! We combined this idea with our MSC book idea to inform the wider society of what children currently find hard across all schools. Ideas will be taking forward to the MHFA team and JaJaJa books.

With ideas flowing there was no need for a break and I handed over to Vicky and Deborah from the SEND Information Advice and Support Service who looked to gain the pupils opinions on surveys they will be providing. This was followed by Vanessa from the Local Offer team who spoke about the Local Offer and the opportunity for the young people involved in the council to help shape different areas of education - mostly importantly ensuring their views are listened to!

Following this we spoke about out of school club opportunities and what the children would like to see being offered. Ideas included arts and crafts (very popular!), performing arts, cooking, health and beauty, more football opportunities and a movie night. Saffron from Oakview would like clubs to be run in special schools which are open to all children; this would be a great way to break down perceptions! Currently the biggest barriers to children getting involved in clubs include travel, the price, not being accepted by others or because your body just won't allow you to. The ideas will be passed onto a number of organisations.

Finally it was a chance to invite pupils from both schools to put themselves forward for the head boy/girl roles which will be coming up in January, information will be provided soon. The star of this meeting was Saffron from Oakview school for her idea around inviting more children to special schools for after school clubs - this could be great at breaking down perceptions.

Before leaving the pupils from Orminston Academy had a tour of the school and asked some brilliant questions about SEND education.

Next meeting: TBC