

Minutes

Multi-schools meeting - Braintree

Thursday 21st October 2021

Virtual meeting

In attendance

Holy Family

John Ray

Birchanger

Howbridge

John Bunyan

St Francis

Apologies - Roseacres, ECC Engagement Facilitator, Notley Green, White Notley, ECC workforce team, Edith Borthwick

Minutes

Just like our meeting the day before this was a last-minute change to virtual after rising covid cases prevented us from meeting in person so it was great to see so many still in attendance. I started by updating the group about our visual impairment project and how we hope to get videos out to schools in the new year.

We then started the meeting by discussing how we could promote more activity in school for our bodies and mind. A list of ideas included more forest school opportunities, more outside learning, more sports clubs, a focus on morning activities every morning at school including yoga & dance, more swimming opportunities, more choice over what sports they do in PE (popular), drawing, more taster sessions at local clubs, more after school clubs, points systems to encourage children to keep active, areas in schools dedicated to keeping active, nurture areas, better mental health activities and better equipment. We are working with Active Essex to look at all these ideas.

From keeping active to school transport. We discussed what might make some journey's better for children who get taxis and buses to school. The children would like to see safe areas on transport (popular), cheaper bus journeys - in London children get on the bus for free, why not in Essex? Music, fidget toy boxes, better planned out journeys, more comfort, giving more ownership to the schools, games available, washable pens and just making the whole experience a little more fun. Ideas will be looked at with our transport working group. We stopped their for a break as it is a long time to sit in front of a screen and listen to others!

After a long break we started to think about midnight walks. In 2022 this will be our main fundraiser and I asked the group to come up with ways that would make this really engaging:

- Treasure hunts included (popular)
- Call it 'A midnight breeze'
- Themed clothing - maybe spooky
- Have lanterns
- Make sure we advertise on social media, newspapers and in schools
- Have climbing challenges
- Music
- Bright jackets
- Let people join with a bike
- Get points or a medal at the end
- Stamps for different check points

All the ideas will be taken forward to our working group in November before plans start going out to everyone.

We were following the agenda in a slightly different order and next up we spoke about what might prevent some children from wanting to keep active or getting involved in sport. We had some brilliant comments:

- People with disabilities are put off because people don't think they can do it (popular)
- Fear of getting hurt (popular)
- Negative thoughts
- Not having a garden at home
- Bullying and peer pressure (popular)
- Poor mental health
- Body sizes

- Inequality in games
- Not having enough inside venues
- Bad weather
- Racism
- Lack of equipment
- Lack of social skills
- Not being able to get place or being supported by parents

A long list that will be looked at in collaboration with our first agenda point.

Finally, we discussed preparing for adulthood. We wanted to hear from the group what their thoughts were on how children could feel better prepared for their futures. Children said they would like more practice on domestic skills, find out what it's like to work in an office, visit older year groups to find out what it is like, better mental health advice, bring back ex-students to talk about their experiences, have after school clubs that advice about transitions, more information about what secondary schools will be like, cooking skills, money skills (popular), looking at jobs a little more and having better career advice.

We ended the meeting there and it was great to see so many children still engaged and listening to each other. The star of this meeting was Zachery from Holy Family for all his input during the meeting but also showing how he was listening to each school by building on their comments.

Next meeting - Wednesday 9th March , 10am - 11:30am, Beckers Green

Follow up points

- **Can you act on any of the 'Keeping active' ideas from agenda item 1? If you can tell us before our next meeting we will reward your children and school with a certificate and it will help us to share good practice!**