Basildon MSC Meeting

Abacus Primary

01/10/2024

**Attendance**

Abacus primary

St Anne-Line

ECC EF

**Apologies –** Ramsden Hall, Hilltops, Oakfield

**Minutes**

Back again with a new academic year & thank-you to Abacus for hosting us. Our new look district model now ensures schools don’t have to travel as far to the 4 meetings across the academic year. We started by discussing the Essex local offer:

* There needs to be audio support on the pages for those who may be blind.
* Background colours could be brighter – maybe more blue?
* More pictures.
* There needs to be more advice on internet safety (popular).
* Some videos that explain different clubs.
* An interactive map of what’s on offer.
* Some activities and games so we want to be on there.
* Making sure we now how to keep things safe when using a computer.

This will all be given back to the team working on the local offer.

Next up we reminded the group of our amazing mascot BANJO! What we were after was a tag-line that could be used to help promote BANJO further:

* We be unique but we can be unique together.
* Disability is just a new ability.
* Differences unite us.
* We may be different but our hearts can be the same.
* Disabilities can be hard but smiling isn’t.
* Everybody is different in their own way.
* We can all be friends.
* Make sure everyone is included.

Some of the group even shared their ideas to camera!

Next, we moved on to discussing how young people could have more of a voice in their own plans such as EHCP’s & one plans. Thoughts on this included making sure they are involved from the start, keep things age appropriate, speak at our level, make sure we know about them and make sure they help others to understand how we should be treated. A good discussion to finish with before we moved onto our break.

The next item to discuss was around mental health, which got voted in as a focus topic for the next 3 years. We are looking for ideas on what we could do as a group and help put this into a plan. The group spoke about having a focus on how to keep calm, importance of talking with friends, it’s important to keep talking about it, discuss anger, it’s okay to have a hug or to cry, we could plan a marathon event to raise awareness, have a mental health officer in every school, include young people in helping others, raise money for mental health charities, have a team in schools made up of adults and children, do a SEN focus day. Lot’s of interesting suggestions that we will be comparing with other thoughts from across Essex.

Our final discussion was about school SENCO’s because young people we have been working with have highlighted their roles as being really important in terms of improving things for young people with SEND. This what the group thought:

* They could be leading more school-based work on helping them understand diversity.
* Deliver assemblies on what different differences mean (popular).
* Link in young people with SEND to help with awareness sessions.
* Help us to learn more about sign language.
* Help get more books in schools that support people who are blind.

Some varied and interesting thoughts that our MSC work will look to support.

All that was left was to thank everyone, including abacus for hosting us and announce the star of this meeting. There were some great role models within the group but for his deep thinking star of this meeting went to Michael from St Anne-Lines!

**Next meeting: Wednesday 4th December; Chair Amy**

***We still need a host school for this meeting so if interested please email*** ***kierran.pearce@essex.gov.uk***