**Harlow MSC Meeting**

**2nd October 2024**

**Pear Tree Mead**

**Attendance**

Moreton Primary

Pear Tree Mead

**Apologies –** St Mary’s, Holycross primary, St James’s

**Minutes**

Another smaller group in Harlow this time as we will look to build on the size of this group but still some wonderful ideas for us to work on. First up the group gave their ideas about how to improve the Essex local offer:

* More pictures.
* A young people’s interests area – such as Harry Potter!
* How to be safe online and in the community (Popular).
* Information on how to go fishing.
* More videos.
* Links to things we can learn about.
* Information on local parks with pictures.
* Rainbow colours.
* Advice on kindness (Popular).
* Sports.
* Have things split into different age sections.
* Be able to find where things are more easily.

As with all the views across Essex this will be passed onto to those in Essex working on the local offer.

Banjo is our wonderful Essex mascot, put together by children across Essex and we also now have a poster we would like to see up in schools! However we need a tag line for our Mascot and here is what the group suggested:

* Banjo your buddy.
* Banjo includes us.
* If you have a disability it doesn’t mean your different to us.
* Just because your different we can still be the same.
* We are all together.
* It doesn’t matter about disability, stay together.
* No matter the problem Banjo can fix it.
* Banjo the best buddy.

Really great ideas that will be taken to our ambassadors for a vote.

Before our break (very excited about the biscuits!) we discussed how young people would like to better be involved in their plans. This could be any plan about them:

* Have a key person linked to your plan for support.
* Have older students supporting younger.
* Include things such as outside learning.
* Just talking about them is important.
* Being able to draw as part of them.
* Making sure I have a voice about where I need to sit in class.
* Less teacher involvement.
* Includes opportunities to work in smaller groups.

We will be working together to look at young people’s voice across Essex.

After our biscuit fuel we moved onto thinking about mental health in young people. This is a really open topic in terms of what our focus might be but discussion led to understanding anger and how to keep calm, get support from older students, provide more reading opportunities, more walking, have teddies or other items available, more garden spaces, bean bags in schools, Ipad’s available, colouring can be a good way to communicate and making sure there are enough trusted adults. We will be putting all the ideas from across Essex together into an engagement plan.

Finally, as a group we discussed SEND support in schools linking to the role of a school SENCO but also all staff. We asked what type of things would provide the most support and this included more 1:1 outside learning, seating in the correct place was really important, having staff explain differences, making sure people know about our likes or dislikes, encouraging language, smaller groups, opportunities to learn other languages, having the chance to communicate through drawing and again a focus on mental health for those with SEND.

A brilliant meeting with confidence really growing as the meeting went on. Star of this meeting was Emma from Moreton primary who again thought deeply about the different questions and gave some fantastic answers!

**Next meeting:** Tuesday 3rd December, Chair Kayleigh

***There is currently no host for this meeting so if you would like to host please email*** ***Kierran.pearce@essex.gov.uk*** ***ASAP***