**Minutes**

**Brentwood MSC meeting**

**Host – Hogarth Primary School**

**07th October 2024**

**Attendance**

Hogarth

Endeavour College

Endeavour School

Quilters

Willow Brook

Kelvedon Hatch

Suffolk SEND team

**Apologies –** St John’s, Mountnessing, St Thomas Primary

**Minutes**

A wonderful turnout across Brentwood this time out and it was great to see some familiar faces, including an ambassador too! A mention for Hogarth who were brilliant hosts too!

First on the list was a discussion about the Essex local offer. We wanted to get the groups thoughts on what should be included within the website and how it should look:

* Information on how to look after pets.
* More colours.
* More cartoons/graphics (popular).
* Bigger writing.
* A section that is just for children.
* More pictures.
* Information on support for parents (popular).
* Online safety.
* How to look after your emotions.
* Links to video games (popular).
* A clear list of clubs.
* Use speech bubbles.
* Where to find local museums.
* Advice on using your free time.
* Links to Makaton/Sign language.
* Subject support such as maths or science.
* Video’s about ADHD.
* Links that could help people who are learning from home.
* Send out posters to all schools so children know about the website.
* Where to video libraries.
* Adults with SEN giving advice for young people.

A real range of ideas that will be shared with local team.

Next up we discussed our mascot Banjo and some tag lines that could be used by our mascot as it travels around the county. We are also making a sure film based on these ideas but today lot’s was suggested including everyone is unique, ask the bear he always cares, the more you try the better you get, we are all different not the same, everyone is included, try your best don’t get stressed, nobody let out, everyone happy, banjo can make things oaky not perfect, banjo can make you stronger every day, if you believe you can achieve it, if you think you can then you can, practice makes perfect, I am the bear that cares and don’t give up keeping trying! There was also the additional idea to create a Banjo song!! So many brilliant ideas and the group worked so hard we brought the break slightly forward.

Some great film captured within the break time as we moved onto discussing our next agenda item which was about young people’s plans. We wanted to know how they felt they could have more of a voice in their plans and they said having advice from adults on what they might need, create clubs where different children could talk about their differences (popular), have more 1:1 chats with staff, use questionnaires, allow children to make their own one page profiles and use one page profiles more (popular), get advice from close friends, older children to role model for younger, make sure it’s built on trust and make sure it’s read through with the young person. These comments will help us within our awards system in schools across Essex.

Next up, we went on to thinking about mental health awareness which is one of 3 priorities voted in by young people across Essex. Here were their thoughts:

* Use happiness boxes (popular).
* Have a symbol that can be communicated for time out.
* 5 way’s to wellbeing works well.
* Encourage fitness.
* Have way’s to cope with stress.
* Encourage eating healthy.
* Use worry boxes.
* Having a voice helps your mental health.
* Older students who are trained to offer support – a buddy system.
* Create a wellbeing day – including bouncy castles.
* Have an opportunity for weekly drop-ins.
* Have sensory toys available.
* Worry monsters can be good.
* Therapy day’s in schools.
* More lessons learning about mental health.
* Spend time with friends.
* Cut down TV.
* Use lunchtime yoga.
* Have wellbeing/kindness helpers.

All of this will be considered as we look to publish a 3-year plan based on feedback from across Essex.

Finally, we announced our start of the meeting because we had run out of time to discuss our final agenda item about SENCO’s due to the amazing ideas from across the group! If any schools want to send us their views about the role of SENCO you are more than welcome.

Star of this meeting was Amy from Hollytree’s primary school for enthusiasm, contributions throughout and sharing how she supports others at her school.

**Next meeting: Friday 6th December 10am – 11:30am , Brightside primary, Chair Kierran**