**Minutes**

**Brentwood MSC meeting**

**Host – Shenfield St Mary’s**

**6th December 2024**

**Attendance**

Shenfield St Mary’s

Grove House

Hollytrees

Hogarth

St Thomas

Larchwood

Quilters

ECC EF

**Apologies –** Stock primary

**Minutes**

Another wonderful turnout here in Brentwood. What we are now seeing across Essex is the number of ambassadors who have joined us & their input at meetings which is wonderful! The first activity got the group moving around as they discussed children’s rights. From the feedback we have now looked at from this group it look’s as if young people feel secure in the right of **feeling safe** & having a right to an **education and training.** Where there was a few more comments and crosses was in the areas of getting the **information to make choices** and **the best possible health and wellbeing.** As a team we will be looking at some of the common themes across Essex.

Moving into the next question we talked about the idea of MSC day in schools and what the young people would like to see next time:

* Therapy dogs coming in.
* A range of inclusive activities.
* A range of sports activities such as wheelchair basketball and Kurling.
* **Assemblies on difference.**
* Bring different schools together.
* Video’s about our differences.
* **Learn sign language**.
* Focus on the word Diversity.
* Share information about books that talk about different abilities.
* Having links on a website if anyone needs information on how to get support.
* A school trip.
* Do some dancing (or bogging).
* Art activities.
* Some science experiments.
* Non-uniform.
* Try different food from different cultures.
* Some singing.
* Do a treasure hunt.
* Hold a talent show.
* Link to some famous people.
* Involve water.
* A fashion show.

All the ideas will be looked at as part of a wider plan we hope to share. It was time here to stop for some snacks and a break!

After the break we switched things up a little so that we could discuss the key topic of crime next. We asked what the group thought of when it came to crime and what they may feel more worried about. This also created a lot of discussion which included things like knife crime, **robbery/stealing,** prison and murder but also included more in-depth conversations than some of our other meetings. Young people said they felt angry thinking about crime, how some young people didn’t understand the consequences, how people struggling with their mental health could get more involved, how we should speak more about different values and how we should be learning more about crime in schools. There were also some strong comments about how we should be **finding out why people might commit crime.** Crime will continue to be an area of focus over the next three years.

Our final agenda item was led by ambassadors Tyler, Amy and Alfie. We wanted to know what they MSC meetings could be called in the future and any ideas on how to make them better. With names this included lots of suggestions such as:

* MSC gathering
* MSC includes
* Assemble
* MSC meet up
* MSC scramble
* MSC mingle
* MSC get together
* The CID
* Members Supporting Change

Someone did share they still liked ‘meeting’ as it made them feel grown up. Our ambassadors will have the final say. In terms of how to make meetings better these were the suggestions:

* More interaction with other schools
* **Young people can speak about their own differences**
* Do some dancing
* **Art activity**
* See some video’s
* Do some games
* A chance to discuss our feelings
* Use buttons or zones to show what we think

Later this month as a team we will be reflecting on how to improve these opportunities.

All that was left to do was pick out a star of the meeting. This really was so hard this time around but our star went to someone who just brought so much positivity to the group and even showed us his dance moves at the end! Well done to Spencer from Shenfield St Mary’s!

**Next meeting: Friday 7th of March, 10am – 11:30am, Quilters Primary School**