**Minutes**

**Uttlesford MSC meeting**

**Host – Elsenham Primary School**

**3rd December 2024**

**Attendance**

Elsenham

Birchanger

ECC Strategic Commissioner

Great Easton

Henham & Ugley

Rose Acres

Stebbing

Felstead

**Apologies –** ECC EF

**Minutes**

A wonderful turn out with 7 great schools making up this meeting! A real highlight first was seeing some young people wearing our special MSC badges and Banjo badges too! The group started with an activity all about children’s rights and what is clear from the feedback that young people felt they often felt they had the right to **give their opinions and be listened to** & also that they felt **supported and cared** for. However, the two areas the group were not as confident in was the right to **take part in group activities** and that not all **education & training** was accessible for all. It was also lovely to hear that part of being involved in the MSC meetings gave them the right to give their opinions and be listened to.

Once we moved past our first activity, we then opened up our first group discussion. We would like to replicate another MSC day in schools, aimed at celebrating differences but asked for some extra ideas for this:

* Include chocolate!
* Disco/parties but also adapted – things like ‘silent fireworks’
* **Non-uniform**
* Drawing activities
* Talk about our differences
* **Visit other schools, potentially special schools**
* Posters about yourself
* Sensory bus/experiences
* Arts & crafts
* A range of inclusive activities
* More PSHE lessons
* **Outdoor learning**
* Celebrate difference
* More student voice opportunities

The team will be putting together a plan for a future MSC day! We then had a good break here. One highlight was a table where one of our ambassadors led a conversation about autism and the fact everyone on that table had autism too. It was great to see an environment where young people just felt so confident to talk about their differences together.

Next up we discussed a new ‘name’ for these ‘meetings’ because meetings can sound a little boring. There were so many suggestions including ideas party, speaking party, connection club, ideas for life, talking club, difference party, MSC gathering, MSC gang, MSC club, Mission MSC secret gathering. In addition to the name change the group also told us what would make the meetings better and they spoke about art, **a chance to talk about you**, get more children involved, doing some of the meeting outside and learn more about differences. All of this will be considered by the team.

Our last discussion centred around a key theme for the MSC group, crime. We asked the group what they thought about when we used the word crim and what the group may feel worried about:

* Murder
* Terrorism
* Going to prison
* **Worried about getting arrested**
* Robbery
* The homeless
* Kidnapping
* Bullying
* Knife crime
* Child abuse
* Walking in communities

As part of our approach here we will be working with different services to think about how we can respond to some of the thoughts coming up from young people.

As always, we finished with a group picture and a star of the meeting. The star for this meeting was Aria from Felstead who spoke so confidently about her differences and gave some thoughtful ideas.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 4th March – No venue currently, if you would like to host please let us know ASAP.**