

# Minutes of Infant Confederation Council

at Polesden Lacey Infant School

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017

**Present:** Fetcham Village Infant, Royal Kent, The Dawnay, Polesden Lacey Infant, The Raleigh, St Lawrence, St Matthew's CofE Infant.

**Apologies:** Eastwick Infant School

## 1. Welcome

Everyone was welcomed to Polesden Lacey Infant School for the second meeting of the Infant Council.

## 2. Introduction

Mrs Keedy explained what was planned for the meeting.

## 3. Ground Rules

Listening carefully to other people.

Respecting each other's viewpoint.

Speaking loudly so everyone can hear.

## 4. Sharing ideas about Playtime: Challenges and Solutions

Representatives from each school shared their ideas and these are summarised below:

**Polesden Lacey** – They had identified that people were sitting on the friendship bench when they had no problem, so it was agreed they should only sit on the bench if they needed a friend. Sometimes people turned down offers of friendship, so people were reminded to be respectful. If someone was on the bench and was upset then others should try to help and if that didn't work they should get a teacher. Sometimes people were invited to join a game but then ignored the rules of the game. If you joined a game you had to respect the rules.

**St Lawrence** had found that children were reluctant to sit on the friendship bench. So they thought that making it multi-coloured would help. Also maybe it would be a good idea to have a competition to decorate the bench; make sure it was in the right place; make a sign.

**The Raleigh** had had a problem with people getting upset over football. It was agreed that lots of schools had that problem. The Raleigh had encouraged children to talk about the issues and what they felt. It was suggested that maybe the team captains could talk together and try to solve things. It was good to resolve it outside and not bring the tensions back into the classroom. Some schools had special adults running the football at lunchtimes – e.g. the caretaker. It was difficult for children to referee matches as they tended to be biased towards their own friends/classes.

**Fetcham:** Some children had got blisters from being on the monkey bars too much. They had talked about this and agreed that as soon as their hands started fizzing they should come off the bars. In wet weather the equipment became slippery. Another school had had problems with slippery decking etc and had found that non-slip paint worked well.

**The Royal Kent** had noticed problems with people not following the rules in games, so they had come up with the idea of a sign with rules on it. It was best if the person who made up the game set the rules, others had to accept this.

Fetcham had developed a way of stopping conflict in the playground. If someone was being mean to someone, you just said, 'Stop it, I don't like it,' and put your hand out. Everyone understood this.

In Polesden they had a picture on the wall with the playground rules and the rules were invented by the children every year so everyone knew what they were.

It was important not to make things worse by reacting badly if someone said something mean to you – it could escalate things.

All the schools had Values and the children knew them and tried to act them out.

Buddies – several schools had found that having buddies helped with keeping people happy at playtime. **St Matthew's** had buddy playtimes where year R children played one day a week with their year 2 buddies, just while the year R children were finding their feet. It worked better if the girls were grouped with the girls, and the boys with the boys. Several schools had found it really useful to link up the younger ones with the older children in this way.

**The Dawnay** had found that sometimes people could get over excited and upset in the playground. So they had been talking about the importance of choosing the right words when they spoke to each other, of being patient, of trying to sort things out between themselves first before going to an adult.

It seemed that all the schools had very similar problems and were looking for solutions. It was agreed that children would go back and discuss the ideas they had shared today within their own school councils.

## **5. Future meetings and Venue**

Details would be circulated.