Secondary SENCO Meeting   - Minutes   **25th January 2018**

Chair: M Nichols (STAGS)
E Bridle (Fleetville); T Elliot-Brown (STAGS); T Dean (Samuel Ryder); L Dine (Beaumont);
A Fitzgerald (St George's); G Nash (LINKS); J Murphy (Batchwood); C Platt (Marlborough); K Thorp (Collett Outreach)
Apologies; none
Minutes taken by - J McPherson (DSPL Admin)

MN: Welcome to all and introductions

MN: Minutes of last meeting 9th October 2017 – copies distributed.
Updates – AET Training, on-going courses are continuing at STAGS
DSPL projects for next year being discussed
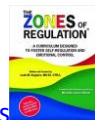Sharing best Practice

KT:
Collett Outreach is very busy with referrals from both Primary and Secondary schools. Schools find it helpful to have a totally impartial view point.
There have been very positive responses from Outreach courses currently being run at STAGS: Zones of Regulation for Schools, 25 booked; Social Stories for Schools, 28 booked, Visual Coding for Schools, 20 booked and Zones of Regulation for Parents, 1st March, is Fully Booked with a waiting list. (May have to re-run)
Laura Dine reported really positive feedback from Beaumont re the ZOR course.
Also recommended the book of the same name, available at Amazon.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Zones-Regulation-Leah-Kuypers

KT – EHCP Annual Reviews: Distributed hand-out of processes and example of a report. Description of target-setting (SMART targets) and outcomes for each review. This then informs the EHCP, Primary and Secondary schools have different input due to number of teachers involved.
EHCP meetings with parents and child should be concise and ideally be no longer than 1-2 hours duration. The focus should be on the content of the EHCP, not about other issues. Pressing matters should be deferred to another meeting.
Discussion of converting statements to EHCP's: electronic documents are now permitted (from Sept '17) and can be sent via Herts FX – with the exception of Speech & Language reports.
Special Schools may administer all processes in slightly different way, owing to pupil/teacher numbers and the recognition of needs.

T E-B: Pupil Profiles still provide a valuable insight in to each child. These are done at STAGS twice per year for all students on the SEN register. Example distributed. Teachers and students both really value these. Targets are reviewed and updated with the child. This is then kept in the school planner and shared with parents & teachers.

Action All: examples of any documents to be shared with DSPL Administration please – jmp@stags.herts.sch.uk

MN: Funding for Primary Bases is being reduced across the whole country. Windermere in St Albans is next to close. Question of what will happen to all the resources? DSPL may be able to allocate funds to enable them to keep them and going forward to use as a lending resource for both Primary and Secondary schools.
The Resources Library is available to all at Fleetville School.

LD: ASD Funding was found to be very helpful last year; will there be anything further this year?

MN: the Budget for this year is now being considered. Could be linked to Autism benchmarking.

Training Gaps:

Teacher training for SEN needs – dyslexia/differentiation/literacy, particularly in Secondary schools

EB: Recommended 'Safety-Net in the Classroom' – course by Neil McKay and the books also available.

http://www.actiondyslexia.co.uk/

Neil MacKay
Dyslexia Friendly Strategies & Support

LD: Also recommended: Sir John Jones sirjohnjones.com Inspirational speaker, outstanding knowledge and experience. Especially in disadvantaged children.

MN Action: Could DSPL fund training by either or both of the above?

MN:
Family support workers are no longer being funded by county. Extra support for parents is being put in place by training partnership family support workers.

Mindfulness Training: training for Secondary schools considered beneficial

AOB

Please bring any Dyslexia Hints and Tips along to the next meeting

Meeting closed at 10.45 am

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 16th May, 9am – 11am @ STAGS