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21 November 2006

Mr I Gurney  
Headteacher  
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Dear Mr Gurney

Ofsted Survey Inspection Programme 2006/7: Healthier Eating in Schools

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 21 November to look at your work on healthier eating and school meals.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our evaluation and reporting. Any published report is likely to list the names of the institutions visited, but we will not identify individual institutions within the report itself.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included interviews with staff and pupils, scrutiny of school documentation and observation of three lessons.

I undertook to provide a brief written version of the main points made in my feedback at the end of the visit, to support development in healthier eating and school meals.

The overall effectiveness of school meal provision is outstanding.

- The standard of school meals

This is outstanding. All the food served in school meets the new standards and is prepared from fresh ingredients. The cook and her team take great professional pride in their work and the presentation of all food. Pupils have a wide range of choice. All special dietary needs are met. Stoke on Trent's City Serve provide all the menus. The well-qualified staff encourage pupils to sample new foods and eat healthily. The cook also provides a range of

healthy tuck shop foods that are very popular with pupils. They said they liked the vegetable sticks and the healthy biscuits made in the school.

- The quality of the dining experience

This is outstanding. The dedicated school canteen is part of the old school buildings and is an attractive and pleasant place for eating. All lunchtime staff have had appropriate training in promoting the social and emotional development of children. Consequently, support to pupils is provided with sensitivity at all times. Staff know the pupils very well and ensure they enjoy the food. The school ensures that queuing is minimised. The youngest pupils eat first to ensure they have sufficient time to enjoy their meals. Staff eat with pupils and help ensure that they develop good social skills. Pupils are careful not to make a mess and behaviour is sensible and courteous.

- Helping pupils and parents to make healthier choices

This aspect is outstanding. Very good home-school links ensure that parents are fully involved with the education and care of their children. Parents come into school to work alongside their children and take activities home for children to work on with them. The school cook has talked to parents and allowed them to sample the food. Parents are able to come into school to eat with their children when they want. In the canteen, there is plenty of colourful information about healthy eating.

- Developing pupils' knowledge and personal skills

This aspect is good. Pupils were confident in leading an assembly, which gave very effective messages about healthy eating. The school ensures pupils take part in sport and exercise. The recently formed school council has a great many ideas about how to improve the school further. Older pupils have plenty of opportunities to exercise responsibility, for example by providing playtime support for younger pupils, acting as mediators between pupils and through their work as prefects.

- Teaching about healthier eating

This aspect is good with some outstanding features. All work in the school reinforces the same healthy eating and being healthy messages. Teaching is imaginative. Food work is effective in helping to develop pupils' literacy skills. Pupils enjoy learning and have very good relationships with staff and each other. Team work and sharing is effective.

- Planning the curriculum

This aspect is outstanding. The school is appropriately consulting fully with parents, pupils and a wide range of agencies on the draft healthy eating policy. Personal, social, health and emotional education (PSHE) effectively

helps pupils to understand better their emotions and to improve their social awareness.

- Managing the school's approach to healthier eating

This aspect is outstanding. The strong leadership of the headteacher and senior staff ensures that all staff are keen to develop their ideas and lead on aspects of healthy lifestyles. Effective monitoring of pupils' understanding of healthy eating supports teachers' planning.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- providing further opportunities for pupils to be involved in developing a healthy school.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop healthier eating and school meals in the school.

As I explained during the feedback, this letter will be copied to your Local Authority and will be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Parker  
Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools