

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404045
F 020 7421 6644
www.ofsted.gov.uk



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Mrs L Bennett
Headteacher
Hempstalls Primary School
Collard Avenue
Cross Heath
Newcastle
Staffordshire
ST5 9LH

Dear Mrs Bennett

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 11 October 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 would not identify individual institutions within the report itself.

The evidence base used to inform the judgements made was: interviews with staff and pupils, scrutiny of school documentation including schemes of work and planning, analysis of pupils' work, and observation of one lesson.

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. This follows:-

- The standard of school meals

All the food served in school meets the new standards. Food is attractively presented. No salt is added during preparation and cooking. Fresh water is available throughout lunchtime and during the day. There is insufficient space for presenting all the food particularly salads.

- The quality of the dining experience

This is outstanding. Despite the school hall being used for meals and as a teaching space, every effort has been made to create an attractive place for eating. As a result pupils and staff eat together and enjoy each others'

company. The school cook and all lunch time staff take great pride in their work. They know the pupils very well and ensure the food is enjoyed by them. Pupils are encouraged to try new and different foods. Pupils are helped to cut up food and use cutlery appropriately.

- Helping pupils and parents to make healthier choices

The school has made efforts to improve information to parents and pupils. It is now good. In the hall information about the meals and healthy choices is arranged at the correct height for pupils to read. A selection of raw vegetable sticks is handed out to every pupil while they queue to come into the hall. Menus are shared with pupils and parents in advance. Effective use is made of the school newsletter to provide parents with ideas for healthy packed lunches. A series of themed lunches has been used very effectively to encourage parents to come into school, for example, the grandparents' lunches and fathers' lunches. The lunch bunch ladder encourages pupils to eat all their vegetables at lunchtime because the pupils are keen to collect enough points to win a prize from the school stationery shop.

- Developing pupils' knowledge and personal skills

Pupils' knowledge of healthy eating is good. They know they must eat five portions of fruit and vegetables a day. They understand which foods they should eat less of and can explain how they try to eat a variety of foods during the week.

- Teaching about healthier eating

There are effective links made between subjects so that opportunities are developed to reinforce messages about healthy eating. Teachers strive to make lessons interesting and imaginative so that a food activity was used to underpin the work the class were doing on literacy to help them understand the importance of clear instructions.

- Planning the curriculum

The curriculum is good. The school is developing its whole school food policy. Appropriate oversight of this has been given to the coordinator for personal, social and health education. An audit of the school's provisions has already taken place and plans are well in hand for meeting the healthy schools standards.

- Managing the school's approach to healthier eating

The strong leadership of the headteacher and senior leadership team has rapidly moved the school forwards since the headteacher was appointed a year ago. The school council have taken an active role in developing

healthy eating. Pupil members relish the opportunities they now have for discussing and implementing their suggestions. Circle time has been used effectively to encourage all pupils to think about eating more healthily.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- developing the whole school food policy.

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