

Alexandra House  
33 Kingsway  
London  
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404045  
F 020 7421 6855  
www.ofsted.gov.uk



20 November 2006

Mrs P Bloor  
Headteacher  
St John's CE (A) Primary School  
Wheatley Avenue  
Trent Vale  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6SB

Dear Mrs Bloor

### 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 20 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 four 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 good.

- The standard of school meals

This is good. All the food served in school meets the new standards. It is attractively presented and there is a good range and choice. All meals are provided by Stoke on Trent's City Serve and are heated on site because the new school does not have the facilities to cook meals from fresh ingredients. The well trained staff allow pupils to sample new foods and encourage them to eat healthily.

- The quality of the dining experience

This is good. The school hall is an attractive place for eating even though it is a multi function space. The school cook and all lunch time staff take great pride in their work. They know the pupils very well and ensure they enjoy the food. The school ensures that queuing is minimised and those pupils who are involved in sport and library work are able to go in first. Pupils in the foundation stage are appropriately not given a choice. They eat a well-balanced hot meal and, as they do so, are helped to develop their social skills by staff.

- Helping pupils and parents to make healthier choices

This aspect is good. The school has improved information to parents and pupils. In the hall, information about the meals and healthy choices is at the correct height for pupils to read. Effective use is made of the school newsletter to provide parents with weekly information about school menus and to encourage them to provide healthy packed lunches. The school uses 'Cook and Eat' activities to promote healthy eating.

- Developing pupils' knowledge and personal skills

This aspect is good. Pupils have a good knowledge of what constitutes healthy eating, including the need to eat fruit and vegetables. The school identified that some pupils do not have breakfast before arriving at school. The provision of free fresh fruit at break time for all pupils is important for these pupils. This encourages healthy habits which are further reinforced through participation in sport and exercise. The school has correctly identified that girls in particular need to be encouraged to be active and has introduced netball for them.

- Teaching about healthier eating

This is good and effective links made between subjects reinforce messages about healthy eating. Teachers strive to make lessons interesting and imaginative. Food activities successfully contribute to the development of pupils' speaking skills.

- Planning the curriculum

This is good. The school is developing its whole school food policy in collaboration with pupils and parents. The school council has carried out an audit of the school's provision and plans are well in hand for meeting the healthy schools standards.

- Managing the school's approach to healthier eating

This aspect is good. The strong leadership of the headteacher has rapidly moved the school forwards since the school opened a year ago. Staff are very keen to develop healthy eating and exercise opportunities for all pupils. Extra swimming sessions are provided.

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