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Mr A Yellup  
Headteacher  
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Dear Mr Yellup

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Healthy eating in schools

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, students and parents, during my visit with my colleagues from the School Food Trust on 8 October 2009, to look at your work on healthier eating and school food provision.

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 used to inform the judgements made included interviews with parents, students and staff; scrutiny of school documentation such as your school evaluation and school food policy; analysis of students' work and observation of two lessons and school lunch.

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

The quality of provision to promote healthy eating

The quality of provision to promote healthy eating is good.

Compliance with the Department for Children Schools and Families' (DCSF) food-based and nutrient-based standards for school food

Compliance with the DCSF food-based and nutrient-based standards for school food is satisfactory overall.

- The food-based standards for school lunches are met. The nutrient-based standards are not fully met.

#### The quality of the dining experience

The quality of the dining experience is satisfactory.

- The new thumb-print recognition payment system is popular with students. The dining room is cramped, but the school and catering staff have worked hard to minimise queuing and make the best use of space. Behaviour is good.

#### Helping students and parents to make healthier choices

Strategies for helping students and parents to make healthier choices are satisfactory.

- Parents spoke very highly of the effective support their children receive in making healthy choices. Those students who had special dietary requirements are exceptionally well looked after. Thus parents had every confidence in the school meals provision. Parents had not been given clear advice concerning packed lunches.

#### Development of students' knowledge and personal skills

Development of students' knowledge and personal skills is good.

- All students interviewed confidently explained the importance of healthy eating and knew how to make healthy choices. They believed they were well prepared for their future lives and able to make wise food choices. They liked the free prizes at lunch time, which encouraged them to have a school meal.

#### Teaching about healthier eating

Teaching about healthier eating is good.

- The 'license to cook' programme has been fully embraced by the school; these recipes have been carefully adapted to meet students' needs. Practical food work is given an appropriately high priority enabling all students to learn how to prepare fresh ingredients and how to cook them.

#### Planning the curriculum

Planning the curriculum is good.

- Consistent healthy-eating messages are taught across a wide range of subjects from English to physical education. However, there is no formal oversight of the teaching of healthy eating across subjects to ensure continuity and that students clearly build their knowledge from one subject to another.
- Students' well-being is promoted by the provision of free bottled water and energy snacks before they enter the exam room.

### Leadership and management

Leadership and management are good with outstanding elements.

- All staff are encouraged and supported in maximising every opportunity to promote healthy eating with every student. This is seen in the high quality of care and guidance students receive and the work that has taken place in improving the dining area. The on-site policy for Years 7 and 8 encouraged students to take school lunches.
- Strong links with other agencies such as the Primary Care Trust and Wakefield Housing are part of the school's wider commitment to improving the lives of all its students and local community.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include the need to:

- improve the guidance to parents concerning packed lunches
- ensure continuity and progression across subjects so that the healthy messages taught are built on systematically.

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

As I explained during the feedback, this letter will be copied to your local authority and will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Parker  
Her Majesty's Inspector