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Sean Harford HMI
National Director, Schools

Mrs Sharon Hodgson MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA.

Our ref: 318901

Dear Sharon

Ofsted's inspection of how children and learners keep themselves healthy, including through healthy eating, under the new Common Inspection Framework from September 2015

I am writing to you as Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on School Food to highlight the changes Ofsted is making to give wellbeing, health and healthy eating a more prominent place in inspection.

On 3 February 2015, following a public consultation, we announced that we will introduce a new Common Inspection Framework for all early years settings on the Early Years Register, maintained schools and academies, non-association independent schools and further education and skills providers. This framework will come into effect in September 2015. Under the framework we will include, for the first time, a judgement on personal development, behaviour and welfare. As part of reaching this judgement, our inspectors will look at the extent to which schools and other providers are successfully supporting pupils to gain 'knowledge of how to keep themselves healthy, including through exercising and healthy eating'. The addition of this to the inspection framework (as opposed to the guidance) means that inspectors will be expected to place a greater emphasis on this issue than before.

Inspectors will look for evidence of a culture or ethos of exercise and healthy eating throughout their entire inspection visit, in classrooms as well as in the school canteen. They will look at the food on offer and visit the canteen to see the atmosphere and culture in the dining space and the effect this has on pupils' behaviour. Inspectors will also speak to school leaders about how they help to ensure a healthy lifestyle for pupils by helping them gain knowledge of a good diet, physical exercise and mental and physical wellbeing.

In addition to this, under the judgement on 'leadership and management' they will also consider the breadth and balance of the curriculum, of which practical cookery is now a part.

It has been suggested in some media reports that Ofsted has reduced its commitment to school food and healthy eating. I hope the information contained in this letter assures you that this is not the case. Some confusion may have arisen as a result of Ofsted's decision in summer 2014 to stop publishing subsidiary guidance (in which previous references to school food were to be found). However, the issues that were covered in the subsidiary guidance are now picked up in our training for inspectors. We have begun to engage with the School Food Plan team to ensure our training resources for inspectors are effective to ensure healthy eating and food in schools is properly inspected. The new Common Inspection Framework applies much more widely than schools, and we are currently looking at how to inspect this issue in other types of provider.

The health and wellbeing of children and learners is an extremely important area, and I am grateful for your continued work, that of the School Food Plan and the APPG in drawing attention to this issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sean Harford". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sean Harford HMI
National Director, Schools