

**Visit: St Francesca Cabrini Primary School, SE23 3LE**

**Date: 9 October 2012**

**Present:**

Mrs Jacintha Martin; Head teacher

Cllr David Hubber; Chair

Cllr the Right Reverend Emmanuel Oyewole; Vice Chair

Colin Gale; Universal Free School Meal Lead

Julie Timbrell; Scrutiny Project manager

**Catering arrangements**

The school uses an external caterer; Chartwells. They are very satisfied with the head chef supplied by the caterer. The menu is on a three-week rolling programme set by the company. The chef takes steps to tailor the menu to the children's requirements and tastes – for example, one child does not eat tomatoes so he produced a particular option.

**Universal Free School Meals and Packed lunches**

The school has received £763 capital investment from the council to cope with additional demand with the introduction of universal Free Healthy School Meals.

They have a 97% take up of school lunches for reception through to year 4.

**Children's and parents input into the menu**

The School Council representatives consult with their classroom peers to get views and suggestions for the menu. There are international days when different food cultures are celebrated.

**Links to gardening, urban agriculture and farming**

The school do not grow food now but are keen to develop this.

**Serving arrangements**

Lunch is served in the school hall with tables and flight trays. Space is at a premium. The school appoints monitors from the senior years to help serve the food and encourage the children to eat well and socially. Children apply for these roles through a formal interview process where they are asked to identify their skills and apply for different the roles. If they want to step down the children need to resign. The head teacher said this helped the children value there skill and develop a sense of responsibility.

**Children's comments**

Children were positive about the menu and healthy eating. The children appeared to be enjoying the food.

**Observations**

Virtually all the children appeared to be eating a good variety of food including vegetables. The quality of the food was good. The children appeared to be enjoying the food. They were very social. The monitors were very dedicated and clear about their role in encouraging the more junior children to eat vegetables and drink water. The monitors took pride in their roles, were effective and the other children appreciated their presence.