Whitegrove Primary School
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Wednesday 18th November 2026

Dear Prospective Parents and Carers,

Ofsted inspection report – Acknowledging the past, responding to the findings and looking to the future

As Interim Headteacher and Chair of Governors, we are writing to inform you that Whitegrove Primary School has been placed in Special Measures following the Ofsted inspection on 14 July 2026. Please read this letter in conjunction with the attached Inspection Report.

We recognise that these findings may be concerning for families considering Whitegrove for their child. We therefore want to begin by acknowledging the seriousness of the report and fully accepting its findings. The standards that children and families have every right to expect were not consistently met at the time of the inspection, and we are sorry that this report reflects a challenging period in our school's history.

Responding to Ofsted's findings

Although the report identifies serious weaknesses, it also recognises that positive changes are already taking place.

Since the inspection in July, and particularly following the appointment of a new Interim Headteacher in September, significant action has been taken to address the concerns raised. Ofsted recognised that "the new headteacher has acted swiftly to address weaknesses in the school's safeguarding culture" and that leaders have taken "rapid action to address weaknesses in the school."

Safeguarding is our highest priority. Since the inspection, we have strengthened our systems for reporting, recording and responding to concerns, increased leadership oversight, reviewed safeguarding procedures and provided additional staff training. Safeguarding arrangements are now subject to much closer monitoring, scrutiny and external challenge.

We also recognise that our provision for pupils with SEND is not yet where it needs to be. We have appointed a new SEND Assistant to strengthen the administration and coordination of SEND provision. We are strengthening oversight of statutory responsibilities and working closely with Bracknell Forest Council and external specialists. Our focus is on addressing the weaknesses identified and ensuring that every child receives the appropriate support to meet their individual needs and enable them to thrive.

While we are encouraged that these changes are already making a difference, we are clear that there remains significant work to do. Improvement will not happen overnight, and we do not suggest that everything has already been resolved. However, families can be assured that we are taking decisive action, supported by governors, the Local Authority and external partners.

Looking to the future

Whitegrove is entering an important new chapter, and we believe it is an exciting time for families to join our school community. While the inspection identified serious weaknesses that needed addressing, it also recognised that leaders have acted swiftly and decisively to begin securing the improvements required.

Since September, the school has benefited from renewed leadership, greater accountability and a clear focus on raising standards. Our priority is to ensure that every child receives a high-quality education in a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment. Significant work is already underway to strengthen safeguarding, improve provision for pupils with SEND, enhance teaching and learning, and secure strong leadership at every level.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of staff who care deeply about our pupils and are fully committed to the school's improvement journey. Supported by governors, Bracknell Forest Council and external partners, we have developed a comprehensive Rapid Action Plan with clear priorities, responsibilities and timescales. Progress is being closely monitored to ensure that improvements are both effective and sustainable.

While we recognise there is still much work to do, we are ambitious for Whitegrove's future. We are determined that the findings of this inspection will mark a turning point, creating a stronger school that provides the very best opportunities for every child.

Why choose Whitegrove?

Choosing a primary school is one of the most important decisions a family will make. We want prospective parents to be assured that Whitegrove remains a safe, caring, and ambitious school community where children are known, valued and supported to succeed.

While the inspection identified significant weaknesses in some areas of the school at the time of inspection, it also recognised important strengths, particularly within our Early Years provision. We know that for many families considering a Reception place, the quality of their child's start to school is paramount, and we are pleased that Ofsted recognised this as a strength of Whitegrove.

Inspectors found that:

"Leaders ensure that children make a positive start in the early years."

"The curriculum has been designed to help children learn and develop well."

"Leaders ensure that staff develop the necessary expertise to help children achieve well and thrive."

The report recognises that leaders have a clear understanding of children's needs before they join the school, enabling staff to prepare effectively and put additional support in place where required. Inspectors found that staff are effective in reducing barriers to learning and wellbeing so that children can settle quickly and make a successful start to their education. Ofsted also highlighted the strength of our Reception curriculum and the progress children make in the foundations of reading, writing and mathematics.

Inspectors noted the positive learning habits developed by our youngest pupils. Children behave well, listen carefully, follow instructions and work cooperatively with one another. They also benefit from a broad range of experiences that develop their independence and understanding of the wider world, including activities such as our popular Fresh Air Friday programme.

The inspection reflects a specific point in the school's history and highlights issues that required urgent action. Those issues have been recognised, addressed with transparency and are now the focus of an intensive programme of improvement. We are confident that the changes already implemented, combined with the expertise and support available to the school, provide strong foundations for the future.

For families considering Whitegrove for September 2027, this is an opportunity to join a school with renewed energy, strong leadership and a clear vision for improvement. Our focus is simple: to create a safe, inclusive and successful school where

every child can thrive academically, socially and emotionally, and where parents can have confidence in the quality of education and care their children receive.

Visit Whitegrove and Meet the Leadership Team

We warmly encourage any family considering Whitegrove for their child to come and visit us. The best way to understand our school is to see it in action: meet our staff, experience the positive atmosphere throughout the school, see pupils engaged in their learning and hear directly about the improvements already underway.

To help prospective families learn more, we will be holding an information meeting for prospective parents on Wednesday 25 November at 4.30pm. This session will provide an opportunity to hear directly from school leaders about the Ofsted report, the significant improvements already made and our vision for the future of Whitegrove.

If you have not already visited our school, families are also invited to attend one of our open mornings, which will include a tour of the school and an opportunity to meet members of the leadership team:

- Monday 23rd November at 9.30am
- Wednesday 9th December at 9.30am
- Tuesday 12th January at 9.30am

We are proud of our school community, optimistic about our future and excited about the journey ahead. We believe Whitegrove has tremendous potential and there has never been a more important or exciting time to become part of that journey. We would be delighted to welcome you, show you our school and demonstrate our unwavering commitment to providing every child with the very best start to their education.

Our commitment

We cannot change the findings of the inspection, but we can and will ensure that they lead to meaningful and lasting improvement. Staff, governors and the Local Authority are united in their commitment to moving the school forward with urgency, openness and purpose.

Whitegrove's future is one of improvement, ambition and opportunity. We are determined to build a school where children are safe, happy and successful, where families feel confident and supported, and where excellence is the expectation for every child. We look forward to welcoming new families as we build that future together.

Should you have any questions, concerns or require further clarification regarding the Ofsted report or the school's response, please contact us at communications@whitegroveprimary.co.uk

All enquiries will be reviewed and directed to the appropriate member of the Senior Leadership Team or Governing Board.

Yours sincerely,





Hayley Harrison
Interim Headteacher

Katy Bridgwood
Chair of Governors