



Governor Response to the Ofsted Report, June 2023.

In March 2022 a Section 8 Ofsted inspection was carried out at Ridgmont, highlighting areas for improvement which the school had already identified. These were mainly regarding new changes to the curriculum which all schools were finding challenging. We retained our judgment of being a 'good school', but they wanted to return to carry out another full Section 5 inspection to ensure changes were implemented.

Development plans were made to address the issues and staff worked hard to implement them. The reality is that with so few staff, so many subjects and so little time out of class to plan and monitor, because of budget constraints, it inevitably took time to embed the changes in all subject areas. When Ofsted returned in June 2023, the HMI confirmed that progress was not rapid enough and that therefore the school received a judgment of 'Requires Improvement.'

Governors spoke with the HMI who acknowledged that the difficulties faced by the school were a major factor in the pace of progress. She recognised it was a question of capacity, not capability on the part of the Headteacher and her staff, but although she was extremely positive about many aspects of the school, the report had to be written against the Ofsted Framework. The final report did not reveal anything we did not know; we were addressing the necessary changes and have continued to do so.

Nevertheless, as governors we are extremely proud of the fact that pupils' behaviour and attitudes and personal development were deemed to be good, which is a real reflection of the nurturing and caring environment of the school.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. J. Sweetnam'.

Christine Sweetnam

Chair of Governors
Ridgmont Lower School