

# **Fylde Coast Academy Trust**

## **Modern Slavery Statement**

Fylde Coast Academy Trust “the trust” is an academy trust in Lancashire comprising 10 schools, 950 employees, and 6,400 pupils. The trust has an annual turnover in excess of £50 million. We recognise the growing problem of modern slavery and are constantly looking to increase transparency in our operations.

Our trust strongly values:

- The ethical treatment of all individuals.
- The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- The responsible, accountable and compliant spending of public and charitable funds.

### **Business and supply chains**

The Trust has a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery and is committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all its business dealings and relationships and in implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure modern slavery is not taking place anywhere in our own business or in any of our supply chains. We buy all goods and services, in accordance with public procurement legislation and our Financial Regulations. The trust works primarily with UK-based suppliers and contractors whose employees are protected under UK employment laws and working time directives.

We expect all our suppliers to fulfil their obligation to comply with the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act and we will continue to refuse to award any contract to suppliers who fail to demonstrate their commitment to ensuring that modern slavery and human trafficking are not taking place within their own business or supply chains.

### **Recruitment**

The trust conducts all its recruitment processes in line with its Recruitment Policy which lays out stringent processes for recruiting staff, and thoroughly checking that they are legally entitled to work in the UK.

### **Policies and procedures**

The trust has implemented a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which references modern slavery and maintains due regard for the Modern Slavery Act 2015 in all policies, procedures and regulations relating to its financial management and procurement. The trust’s Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy provides a framework for our schools to identify and support pupils at risk of abuse, including children who are at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation.

Our policies are regularly monitored, are officially reviewed annually, and are updated in response to any changes to government regulations or guidelines.

### **Risk assessment and due diligence**

The trust regularly reviews its new supplier processes and never knowingly issues contracts to suppliers who do not adhere to the Modern Slavery Act 2015. New contracts for services are checked to ensure that suppliers pay their staff at least the correct minimum wage.

If we had evidence that suggested a supplier was not acting in accordance with the Act, their contract would be nullified and the supplier reported to the relevant authorities. The trust reserves the right to exclude any bidder, contractor or service-provider who has been convicted of an offence under the Modern slavery Act 2015.

### **Training**

Throughout the next twelve months we will continue to raise staff awareness of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Our schools will continue to deliver training for staff on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and to educate pupils on slavery and human trafficking through the History and Geography curricula and through Citizenship lessons.

Staff receive training on safer recruitment practices and all staff, governors and trustees receive annual safeguarding training.

### **Goals and key performance indicators**

The trust is committed to continually reviewing and improving its practices to ensure modern slavery is in no way a part of its operations. Over the next financial year, we are looking to implement the following control measures to increase our oversight of ethical procurement and recruitment:

- Key staff will complete the Certificate in Understanding Modern Slavery available through the National College.

### **Academies**

This statement applies to all academies within the trust.

### **Declaration**

This statement has been approved in full by the Fylde Coast Academy Trust board of trustees, pursuant to the fulfilment of its obligations under section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Signed *Kathleen Edison* (Chair of Trustees)

Date 7/1/2025