

Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Modern Slavery Statement 2020/21

Introduction

This Statement is designed to satisfy the requirements of Part 6 Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act (2015).

Organisation

The Fylde Coast Academy Trust is a UK charity and company limited by guarantee. The trust operates ten academies for pupils aged 3 to 16 across Blackpool and West Lancashire.

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. 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.

Our Policies

The **Modern Slavery Policy** reflects our commitment to acting ethically and to implementing effective systems and controls to ensure that our supply chains are free from slavery.

The **Whistleblowing Policy** encourages the reporting of any wrongdoing which extends to human rights violations like Modern slavery.

The **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.

The **British Values Policy** recognizes the vital role the trust has in ensuring that groups or individuals within FCAT are not subjected to intimidation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them and that within FCAT students will be actively encouraged to make independent choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Students will be encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and be advised on how to exercise these safely.

Our 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. The trust works primarily with UK-based suppliers, buying a large range of external goods and services, including agency labour, catering services, curriculum supplies, construction services, cleaning services, waste management, stationery and office supplies and do so in accordance with public procurement law and our own internal finance regulations.

We expect all our suppliers to fulfil their obligation to comply with the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act and to establish recognised employment relationships with their employees that are in accordance with their national law and good practice.

Safeguarding

FCAT's Safeguarding 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.

FCAT is committed to safeguarding children and young people within our areas of responsibility and recognises the importance of ensuring that all adults working or volunteering in our organisations clearly understand their legal responsibilities, specific roles and the procedures to follow in order for this to happen. All staff, volunteers and trainees working in our organisations have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children and young people can learn. This is a legal duty of care in accordance with the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (update January 2021). Training is provided to staff, volunteers and trainees in how they can fulfil this responsibility.

Each academy has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). If, at any point, there are concerns about or there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child or young person, the DSL at the organisation must be informed.

Training

Our HR team are trained to ensure, through our rigorous recruitment checks, that we do not employ people who are under-age or who do not have the right to work in the UK. Our contracts adhere to the European Working Time Directive.

Procurement and Estates Teams are made aware of the Modern Slavery Policy and their obligations to procure in accordance with this policy.

Throughout the next twelve months we will continue to raise staff awareness of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our modern slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31st August 2020.



John Boyle
Director

11th February 2021