

Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Modern Slavery Statement – Year End 31st August 2022

Introduction

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

The Trust continues to be committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct and to preventing and eliminating any form of modern slavery and/or human trafficking in its operations and its supply chain.

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 **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.

The **Recruitment Policy** ensures that all staff recruited to work within the Trust are subject to rigorous checks, including DBS, disqualification, barred list and prohibition checks together with identity and right to work in the UK checks and references. Where it is necessary to hire agency staff, we only use agencies that have been vetted through the Trust's procurement procedures and who apply the same rigorous employment checks as the Trust.

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. 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.

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 trust 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 September 2022). 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 academy must be informed.

Training and Awareness Raising

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 will continue to be receive training on Safer Recruitment Practices and safeguarding.

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 2022.



Joel Arber
Director

11th January 2023