Document Title:	**Modern Slavery Statement** *Financial Year Ending 31s t August 2026*
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Policy Category (Please Indicate)	**1**	**Trust/Academies to use without amendment**
	2	Academy specific appendices
	3	Academy personalisation required (in highlighted fields)

Summary of Changes from Previous Version

Version	Date	Author	Note/Summary of Revisions
V1	September 2026	HR	New Statement

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1. INTRODUCTION

Place Partnership, A Multi Academy Trust (the 'Trust') is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct in all of our activities. This Statement is designed to satisfy the requirements of Part 6, Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act (2015). The Trust will not engage in, or condone, the practices of human trafficking, slavery or forced labour. The Trust procures goods and services from third party contractors predominantly based in the UK.

2. ABOUT PLACE PARTNERSHIP

Place Partnership is an educational charity established in September 2026 as a result of two highly respected organisations coming together with a shared vision for the future of education.

Maltby Learning Trust was established in 2014, rooted in a strong commitment to serving communities across South Yorkshire. From its beginnings, the Trust focused on creating high-quality educational opportunities and improving outcomes for children and young people, particularly within its local communities.

Over time, Maltby Learning Trust grew into a family of primary and secondary academies, educating thousands of pupils and employing hundreds of dedicated staff. Its success was built on collaboration, strong leadership, and a clear focus on delivering exceptional experiences for every learner.

The Trust developed a reputation for innovation, inclusivity and a deep commitment to community, working closely with families and partners to support not only academic achievement but also wider wellbeing and opportunity.

Accord Multi Academy Trust was founded in 2016, with a clear mission to bring schools together to work collaboratively and raise standards for all learners.

Accord developed a strong track record of school improvement, partnership working and leadership development. With experience spanning primary and secondary education, the Trust built expertise in supporting schools to thrive through collaboration, shared practice and strong governance.

Accord's approach was always underpinned by a belief in the power of partnership and the importance of investing in people to deliver sustainable improvement.

As a result in 2026, Maltby Learning Trust and Accord Multi Academy Trust came together in a voluntary merger of equals to form **Place Partnership.**

This was not simply a structural change, it was a purposeful decision to build on the strengths of both organisations and create a Trust with greater capacity, resilience and opportunity for the future.

With a combined family of academies serving around 9,000 learners aged 2–18, Place Partnership is united by shared values and a clear moral purpose, to improve life chances and transform communities through education.

Place Partnership is built on strong foundations, shaped by the history and success of both Maltby Learning Trust and Accord. Together, we are creating a future-focused organisation that is ambitious for every child, every member of staff, and every community we serve.

Guided by our core belief that people belong, place matters and purpose lasts, we are committed to building a Trust where collaboration drives excellence, and where every learner has the opportunity to thrive.

The Academies that form Place Partnership are shown below:



3. RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

Academy Leaders and Trustees have identified and documented the risks to which the Trust is exposed. These risks are reported to and reviewed by the Trust's Audit and Risk Committee regularly. Risk management strategies have been implemented and are monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

The Trust carries out internal and external audits which include policy compliance. The outcomes of these audits are included in reports to the Audit and Risk Committee and to the Board of Trustees.

The Trust's overall risk management plan is aimed at:

- Protecting its pupils, staff and assets;
- Managing risk in accordance with best practice and reducing the cost of risk;
- Anticipating and responding to changing social, environmental and legislative requirements;
- Raising awareness of the need for risk management;
- Integrating risk management into the culture of the Trust;

- Adopting legal compliance as a minimum standard.

The Trust's financial regulations and Procurement Policy include reference to the Modern Slavery Act, and Trust/Academy colleagues have been briefed in its implications for procurement.

4. SUPPLY CHAINS

The Trust's financial regulations include reference to the Modern Slavery Act in relation to procurement.

Risk assessments of our supply chain are carried out against the likelihood of the following three traits of slavery and human trafficking occurring:

- Forced labour;
- Work and life under duress;
- Impossibility of leaving an employer.

Each key risk area is listed below along with a description of our strategy to reduce the risk of modern slavery in each area.

Key Risk Area	**Strategy To Reduce Risk**
Catering Services and Supplies	Catering services at the Trust are outsourced. Compliant procurement processes are followed upon appointment of catering contractors. A Whistleblowing Policy is in place. Appointed contractors are required to evidence their compliance with the Modern Slavery Act.
Cleaning Services and Supplies	Cleaning services are in some instances outsourced. Compliant procurement processes are followed upon appointment of cleaning contractors. A Whistleblowing Policy is in place. Appointed contractors are required to evidence their compliance with the Modern Slavery Act. Cleaning supplies for in-house provision are provided by approved suppliers who operate and abide by the Modern Slavery Act standards. Modern slavery is explicitly mentioned in the contract and/or purchase order and discussed with the supplier.
Estate Management, construction and maintenance of services	Compliant procurement processes are followed and some procurement in this area is with suppliers who are pre-approved by a purchasing framework. Wherever possible we ensure Modern Slavery controls are discussed with new suppliers, and the issue is specifically referred to in new contracts.
ICT Equipment and Services	Compliant procurement processes are followed and a considerable proportion of procurement in this area is with suppliers who are pre-approved by a purchasing framework.
Supply/Agency Staff	Compliant procurement processes are followed and considerable proportion of procurement in this area is with suppliers who are preapproved by a purchasing framework or with Trust / Agency agreements in place that ensure absolute clarity and assurance of the agency's compliance with legislation.

Education equipment, textbooks and resources suppliers	The Trust uses preferred suppliers for the bulk of education equipment. Wherever possible we ensure Modern Slavery controls are discussed with new suppliers, and the issue is specifically referred to in new contracts and/or purchase orders. Where other suppliers are used further controls, such as avoiding oversees suppliers are in place.
Pupil and staff uniform suppliers	Only local and approved uniform suppliers are used. All suppliers are adhering to the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act.

5. MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS

Over the last year both Maltby Learning Trust and Accord Multi Academy Trust have taken proactive steps to ensure compliance with the Modern Slavery Act (MSA) is inherent in the procurement procedures used and both Trusts have been vigilant and have raised awareness with relevant staff (Finance, HR, ICT and Business Operations).

As Place Partnership, we will continue to take the following steps to promote awareness of this during 2026/2027:

- Include steps for compliance with the Modern Slavery Act as a condition or criterion in specification and tender documents.
- Ensure all suppliers and contractors are aware of the Trust Code of Conduct in respect of their conduct.
- Request that all companies submitting tenders for services or goods complete the Trust's Procurement Checklist and provide supporting evidence of policies and procedures.
- Raise awareness amongst Trust teams who are involved in employment, procurement and management, of the risks of modern slavery occurring within our supply chains.
- Raise awareness to all Trust employees.
- Ensure all relevant new employees receive awareness training as part of their induction.
- Review the Trust's Procurement Policy to ensure the policy is fit for purpose and all colleagues involved in purchasing across the Trust understand their responsibilities in relation to it.
- To ensure that staff, Governors and Trustees are aware of current legislation surrounding equality and diversity and understand the Trust's responsibility.
- To promote cultural understanding and awareness of all groups and academy communities.
- To promote mental health awareness including avenues of support and interventions where necessary.

6. POLICIES

We are confident that our policies promote good behaviour among our employees within the Trust. Our policies and procedures are kept under review to make sure that they reflect the changing needs of the Trust, our academies and staff, pupils, students and the communities served. We are determined that there shall be no modern slavery or human trafficking at the Trust.

Our policies enhance our commitment to act ethically and with integrity throughout our academies and the Shared Services Teams.

The policies in place to help us avoid modern slavery or human trafficking under the Act are:

- Staff Code of Conduct (including Gifts and Hospitality, and Conduct for Suppliers).
- Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy.
- Safer Recruitment Policy.

- Whistleblowing Policy.
- Equality & Diversity Policy.
- Financial Management Policies.

7. DUE DILIGENCE

The Trust's Safer Recruitment Policy ensures that all prospective employees are legally entitled to work in the UK.

All our Academies complete an annual safeguarding audit, conducted by academy Designated Safeguarding Leads and reviewed by the Local Authority Safeguarding Advisor and Academy Education Committees. In addition the Trust's Director of Safeguarding completes annual safeguarding reviews at all academy sites.

8. RAISING AWARENESS & TRAINING FOR STAFF

All Trust employees will be briefed on the Trust's Modern Slavery Statement and policy awareness will be included in the induction process for all new staff.

9. PROCUREMENT

The Trust is committed to ensuring that workers employed or engaged in its supply chains throughout the word are treated fairly, humanely and equitably and to this end we shall comply and shall ensure as far as is reasonably possible that its sub-contractors comply, in relation to all workers employed or engaged by it directly or indirectly in connection with the supply of goods and the performance of the Servies, with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

A considerable proportion of our procurement is with suppliers who either are pre-approved by a purchasing consortium/framework or are appointed by means of a tender process.

We have identified that some of our procurement takes place within sectors where modern slavery offences could occur such as within our catering, cleaning, school uniform supply chains and building contractors.

All our contractors are required to check an individual's right to work in the UK and carry out an enhanced DBS check prior to hiring staff to work unsupervised in our Academies. It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure that the same checks are carried out on any sib-contractors prior to inviting them to work unsupervised within our Academies.

When one of our Academies is selecting a new supplier, such as a school uniform supplier we will consider the supplier's ethical trading policies and review their code of conduct for suppliers as part of the tender and selection process.

Where new suppliers are required, the Trust undertakes due diligence and will include compliance with the Modern Slavery Act as a condition or criterion in tender documents.

10. CONCLUSION

This statement relates to the financial year 2025/2026 which ended on 31 August 2026 in respect of both the former Accord Multi Academy Trust and the former Maltby Learning Trust. It is a statement of intent moving forward as Place Partnership from 1 September 2026.

This statement will be reviewed on an annual basis in line with the Trust's financial year and/or Modern Slavery reporting requirements.