

Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Modern Slavery Statement 2017/18

Introduction

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

Organisation

Fylde Coast Academy Trust (the Trust, or, FCAT) is a UK exempt charity and company limited by guarantee. The Trust currently operates ten academies for pupils aged 3 to 16 across Blackpool and West Lancashire.

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 does 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.

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 Trust has a Modern Slavery Policy in force which reflects our commitment to acting ethically and to implementing effective systems and controls to ensure that our supply chains are free from slavery.

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

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'. 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 2018.



John Boyle
Chair of Directors

30th January 2019

