



Modern Slavery Act Statement 2016

Introduction

1.1 Hadlow Group comprises of Hadlow College, an “outstanding” land-based college and West Kent and Ashford College, newly acquired in August 2014. They are both Further and Higher Education Colleges established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 and are both exempt charities for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011.

The group also includes Hadlow Rural Community School, a free school with Academy status and Betteshanger Sustainable Parks, which operates a country park in East Kent, and will open a Visitor Centre and the Kent Mining Heritage Museum in 2017.

1.2 The group’s main business is to deliver education and training to students aged 12 and upwards, covering a wide range of vocational and academic programmes. Our two Further Education colleges offer education, training and qualifications – including degrees and apprenticeships – in a wide array of subjects, whilst at the same time we run commercial enterprises such as a Garden Centre, Hair Salon, Farm Shop and Restaurant. Through Hadlow College, the group is particularly involved with the county’s rural community and has a focus on educational excellence linked to sustainable business practices. It prides itself on the 360 degree approach to student teaching and products giving visibility to large parts of its supply chain and supporting local business wherever possible.

1.3 The Group also provides accommodation to around 230 residential students, runs nursery provision through its Hadlow Community Pre-school and also operates a commercial farming business, including large dairy and sheep herds on its 1,000 acre estate.

1.4 For more information on individual parts of the Hadlow Group, please visit our websites www.hadlow.ac.uk, www.westkent.ac.uk, www.ashford.ac.uk, www.hrcschool.org www.betteshangerparks.co.uk

2. Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

2.1 Hadlow Group’s core values lie at the heart of everything we do and as such we are committed to operating all our businesses responsibly and in accordance with the highest standards, which are embedded in our core values.

2.2 Slavery and human trafficking are incompatible with the Core Values of both Hadlow College, and West Kent and Ashford College, which are to be;

- Inclusive and welcoming
- Responsible and accountable
- Supportive and caring
- Open and transparent
- Honest and reliable
- Professional and efficient

2.3 We expect the same high standards from our suppliers and those we work with.

2.4 Our procurement policy helps us to consider issues around modern slavery and human trafficking with our suppliers.

2.5 By the end of January 2017, we wrote to every supplier with a trading balance for 2015-16 of over £15,000 (eg around 400 suppliers) requesting details of the steps they are taking to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place within their businesses and supply chains. We also requested copies of any relevant policy documents dealing with this issue. Our procurement team is currently in the process of receiving and logging their responses to ensure their approach is consistent with the standards required by the Hadlow Group.

2.6 We will work with our principal suppliers to ensure that our approach to slavery and human trafficking is reflected in all our purchases of goods and services so that neither we nor they are involved in any way, either directly or indirectly, in slavery and human trafficking.

3. Our Commitment

3.1 We are committed to ensuring that slavery and human trafficking have no place in our business or our supply chain.

3.2 This statement has been approved by the Senior Management Team and will be reviewed annually by the College Risk Management Group.

3.3 This statement has been approved by the Group's Governing Body.

3.4 This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our Group's slavery and human trafficking statement for the academic year ending 31st July 2016.

31 January 2017