



## Modern Slavery Statement

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# Modern Slavery Statement – July 2025

Modern slavery is a crime that affects millions of individuals around the world. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 defines these offences as those of 'slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour' and 'human trafficking'. Our Trust is committed to ensuring that modern slavery is not tolerated and encourages all those employed by the Trust, or associated with it, to take a proactive approach to tackling this type of crime.

Our trustees and senior executive leaders have not had cause to believe that modern slavery practices have occurred within the Trust or within its supply chains, but remain keenly aware of the need for continued vigilance.

## 1. Organisation Structure and supply chains

Education South West is a multi-academy trust comprising 14 schools in Devon as of 31 August 2024. The Trust's main business operations are in the provision of education. It is supported by a number of suppliers of various sizes.

The vast majority of the Trust's supply chains are UK based and key contracts cover areas such as capital works, catering supplies, facilities and plant servicing and maintenance, supply teaching staff, other areas of staffing, educational and IT supplies. One of the Trust's academies were contracted to a Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

## 2. Policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking

Our Trust is committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any of our academies or any aspect of our business. The Trust is committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all its business relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place anywhere in its business. The following key policies detail our approach to protecting pupils and staff and ensuring our supply chains are free from modern slavery and trafficking:

- Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy

## 4. Risk assessment and management

Our trustees and senior executive leaders deem the risk of systemic modern slavery within the Trust itself to be very low. Recruitment to the Trust takes place within policy frameworks and employees and volunteers are subject to legal checks, including Right to Work and DBS. Trustees and senior executive leaders are, however, clear on the need to maintain vigilance.

The Trust also deems the risk of systemic modern slavery within our supply chains to be low. This is because procurement processes are such that reputable firms are contracted and, where cost-effective, larger contractors with their own modern slavery statements or policies are used.

## 5. Measuring effectiveness

## MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT

The Trust's Deputy CEO is the named senior executive leader responsible for monitoring organisation wide, day to day compliance with the Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy.

Our Trust Finance Committee are advised of key procurement activity, including the approval of large contracts as the terms of the Trust's financial delegations.

### **6. Training on modern slavery and trafficking**

All Trust staff received training and information on Keeping Children Safe in Education, which includes reference to child criminal exploitation. This training is updated for all staff annually at the start of each academic year. In addition, all new staff receive information on our Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy and whistleblowing procedures when they start work with our Trust.

### **7. Actions taken by the Trust**

The Trust Board has approved a Trust-wide Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, which already contains specific content on child criminal exploitation. The Trust Board has approved a Whistleblowing Policy to promote each person's duty to raise concerns of wrongdoing and criminality. Any incidents of whistleblowing are routinely reported to the Chair of Trust Board as the nominated Trust Board link for these matters. The Trust Board has also approved a Scheme of Delegation and related financial authority levels, which sets out clear arrangements for the approval of contracts of varying values.

- This statement will be published on the Trust website.
- This statement was agreed by Trustees July 2025.