



Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Statement 2025 - 2026

This statement is made on behalf of Heartwood Learning Trust and pursuant to section 54(1) of the **Modern Slavery Act 2015** and constitutes our **Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Statement**. This statement relates to actions and activities during the period September 2025 to August 2026 and is made in conjunction with the Trust's policy in relation to modern slavery with the aim of preventing opportunities for modern slavery to occur within its business or supply chain, and safeguarding any individuals who may be at risk. This statement applies to all individuals working for or with Heartwood Learning Trust in any form, including our supply chain, Trustees, Governors, volunteers, contractors, employees and all other business partners.

Heartwood Learning Trust recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. The organisation is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking within its activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking. This statement sets out the Trust's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to the organisation and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its organisation and associated partners.

Structure

Heartwood Learning Trust is a Multi Academy Trust whose principal activities are the provision of primary and secondary education in 14 academies across Yorkshire and Humberside.

Our Approach

Heartwood Learning Trust has a zero tolerance approach to any form of modern slavery and trafficking. We are committed to acting ethically, with integrity and transparency in all organisational matters and we expect our supply chain, Trustees, Governors, volunteers, contractors, employees and all other associated partners to commit to the same, including implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to prevent and deter modern slavery.

Our Policies, Documentation, and Key Relationships

The following key policies and documentation detail our approach to protecting our pupils and staff from modern slavery and ensuring our supply chains are free from modern slavery. These include:

- Equality Policy and Objectives
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Tendering and Procurement Policy
- Procurement and contracts
- Supplier Terms and Conditions

In addition, we work closely with the National Joint Council (NJC) to help reduce risk by improving employee working and pay practices. Our Resources (Pay) Committee has oversight of the process and practices embedded

within Heartwood Learning Trust to reduce Modern Slavery and in ensuring our supply chains which rely on people can demonstrate adherence with local and national laws and regulations, including paying the minimum wage.

Identifying and Addressing Risks

We recognise as a Trust that there are two main avenues of risk through which modern slavery could impact the organisation. The first is through matters of a safeguarding nature which covers child sex exploitation or human trafficking which can directly impact our pupils. This also potentially affects the staff of our contractors. The second is our supply chain and the vendors we contract.

Procurement and Supply Chain

We are committed to ensuring that there is transparency in our organisation and our approach to tackling modern slavery is consistent with our obligations under the **Modern Slavery Act 2015**. We expect the same high standards from all of our contractors, suppliers and other associated partners and we are evolving and updating our procurement and contracting processes to include specific prohibitions against the use of forced, compulsory and trafficked labour, or anyone held in slavery or servitude, whether adults or children. We expect our suppliers to hold their own suppliers to the same high standards.

The biggest risk to our organisation of falling foul of the **Modern Slavery Act** is through our procurement of goods and services. Whilst we cannot 100% guarantee supplier adherence with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act we will endeavour to eliminate the risks as much as possible. We will do this by ensuring that our procurement processes, supplier code of conduct and contractual terms include specific provision relating to the **Modern Slavery Act**.

Safeguarding

Modern Slavery and trafficking are both forms of abuse and therefore our safeguarding policies and procedures should be followed. All frontline employees receive multi-agency Safeguarding Children training which incorporates modern slavery. These employees have an individual responsibility for ensuring that they are familiar with the signs and indicators and that they are aware of our safeguarding policies and procedures so that they are able to respond appropriately. The Trust will ensure that safeguarding training is kept up to date.

Training for Staff

Every member of staff, whether they are based in an academy or not, is trained on the policy. In addition, Heartwood Learning Trust has a Whistleblowing Policy which enables those with concerns about any wrongdoing or breaches of law are able to raise these concerns in confidence without fear of disciplinary action. We evaluate our processes for raising concerns to ensure that there are clearly identified ways to report concerns of whistleblowing or modern slavery which are available to all users of our estates.