

REAch2 Academy Trust Modern Slavery Statement 2020-21

Introduction

REAch2 Academy Trust has been recognised by the Department for Education as being well placed to raise standards and achieve excellence for pupils in a growing number of schools nationwide. We are presented with a rare opportunity to make a real difference to the lives and life chances of so many primary school children – many of whom haven't previously received the educational opportunities they deserve.

The Trust has academies based across England and includes schools at various stages of their school improvement journey, from those requiring improvement through to our outstanding schools. As a Trust we are clear about the importance of achieving long term sustainability for our schools. Our Vision is to enable individual academies to flourish with real autonomy, whilst also ensuring a strong ethos of support and collaboration across our clusters and schools.

This statement sets out the Trust's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to its activity and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its academies and supply chains.

REAch2 Academy Trust acknowledges responsibility to comply with all principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and will perform due diligence to provide transparency throughout the organisation with particular attention to its academies and to ensure supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking.

Procurement and supply chain management

The Modern Slavery Act applies not only to the organisation's own employees but also to suppliers, sub-contractors and other business partners which it works with. REAch2 will not knowingly support or deal with any businesses involved in slavery or human trafficking.

A considerable proportion of our procurement is with suppliers who are preapproved either by a purchasing consortium or appointed through means of a tender process. As part of our initiative to identify and mitigate risk, we will ensure that suppliers are required to provide a warranty to comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015. We reserve the right to exclude any bidder who has been convicted of an offence under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Our supply chains may include the following works, goods and services but not limited to:

- education equipment, textbooks and resources suppliers
- educational data, training and support services
- student and staff uniform suppliers
- estate management maintenance and services
- ICT equipment and services
- catering services and supplies
- cleaning services and supplies
- payroll services
- peripatetic music services
- PE and PE coaching services
- Supply / agency staff

We have identified that some of our procurement takes place within sectors where modern slavery offences could occur, such as within our cleaning and catering supply chains and within the maintenance and construction industry. All tenders for supply of services and or goods include a requirement for the supplier to provide assurance of its labour practices and their ethical trading including any of its direct suppliers or subcontractors also comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

During the year we have taken the following steps to promote awareness of this, which will continue into the next academic year:

- Raise awareness amongst National, Cluster and Academy based teams involved in employment, procurement and management, of the risks of modern slavery occurring within our supply chains.
- Ensure that staff involved in procurement receive training on modern slavery
- Ensure that staff involved in recruitment receive training on modern slavery
- Continue to comply with the modern slavery act as a condition for specification and tender documents.
- Continue to ensure our 'New Supplier' form requests all suppliers evidence their compliance with the modern slavery act.

Our policies to resist modern slavery and human trafficking

We will continue to review our existing policies and procedures in light of the Modern Slavery Act. Among the policies that we consider give us strength in avoiding modern slavery or human trafficking under the Act in REAch2 Academy Trust are:

- Code of Conduct
- Dignity at Work Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Tendering & Procurement Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy

The Trust's Whistleblowing Policy draws attention to the risk of modern slavery or human trafficking and stresses that a report of concern in relation to these matters can be made under the protection of the whistleblowing policy.

We are determined that there shall be no modern slavery or human trafficking in REAch2 Academy Trust. Our policies evidence our commitment to act ethically and with integrity throughout our organisation, in line with our touchstones and cornerstones.

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Training and continuing vigilance

1. We have discussed the Modern Slavery Act, its purpose and the Trust's attitude to it at Trust Board meetings.
2. We have made the Cluster boards and local governing bodies aware of our modern slavery statement.

3. We have raised awareness to school leadership teams and challenged them to consider where the risk of modern slavery or human trafficking may arise within our academies.
4. We will provide guidance to those involved in procurement of the need to avoid those risks and on possible indicators of them during the procurement of goods and services.
5. We will continue to seek a guarantee from suppliers as to their compliance to the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Declaration

This statement relates to the 2020-21 financial year and has been approved by REAch2 Academy Trust Board on 16 December 2021 and is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

This policy statement will be reviewed annually by the Trust Board and published on the Trust website.



Sir Steve Lancashire
CEO, REAch2 Academy Trust