



Modern Slavery Statement

2024 - 2025

Beyond Schools Trust

Modern Slavery Statement 2024 – 2025

This statement is made on behalf of the Beyond Schools Trust (company number 07401701) pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our slavery and human trafficking statement. This statement relates to actions and activities during the year 1 April 2024 –31 March 2025 and is our first published statement following increase in size of Trust from 1 April 2024.

Beyond Schools 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 ensure it understands all potential modern slavery risks related to its business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its business and supply chains.

Structure, Business, and Supply Chains

Beyond Schools Trust is a national Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), working within one of the most economically deprived areas of the country. The list of our academies can be found on our Beyond Schools Trust website.

Beyond Schools Trust has two main areas of operations:

- A national level which oversees the business as a whole;
- A local level – e.g., an individual academy.

Our suppliers are UK based and key supply areas cover catering, maintenance/repairs, agency staff and cleaning.

Our Approach

We work to the highest professional standards and comply with all laws, regulations, and rules relevant to our business. We expect the same high standards from those we work with and are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business. We act ethically and with integrity in all our charitable and business relations.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Chief Executive will hold the Executive and Senior Leadership Team within individual schools responsible for taking steps to ensure this policy is promoted, understood, and implemented by all employees and any individuals who may represent the Trust.

All employees, representatives and those delivering our products and services are responsible for taking steps to promote the principles of this policy to help prevent slavery and human trafficking. Similarly, all individuals are expected to challenge and report any breaches of this policy.

The Executive Team, including Headteachers, are required to undertake Modern Slavery Training bi-annually, as well as staff in Finance and Human Resources.

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.

- Procurement and Contracts Policy;
- Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure
- Concerns and Complaints Policy;
- Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure;
- Single Central Record (SCR), Personnel Files and Safer Recruitment Policy;
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy;
- Contractors DBS Requirements Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct;
- Supplier Terms and Conditions.

Our Finance, Audit & Risk Committee (FAR) has overall oversight of the process and practices embedded within Beyond Schools 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 Beyond Schools Trust. 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.

Supply Chain

Beyond Schools Trust's procurement regulations set out the requirements we have in relation to our engagement with suppliers. Our suppliers are expected to comply with all local and national laws and regulations. This includes paying their staff the minimum wage, and any on-site staff passing a DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) check. We publish our standard terms and conditions to ensure providers looking to contract with us are aware of our standards and provide our policy covering our expectations about DBS requirement for anyone on site if they are in any form of regulated activity on our premises. Should suppliers fail to meet our minimum requirements, or be unwilling to make any changes, we may cease to trade with them.

Procurement is subject to internal audit review, as well as assessed by our external auditors annually. Frameworks via public sector buying organisations are considered for all tenders and these meet the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 by default. In the event we opt not to use an existing framework, all tenders go through Director of Finance and Trustees at which point the modern slavery risk will be considered and incorporated into the tender evaluation criteria.

We have completed a desk-based audit of our key suppliers' statements to reassure ourselves they continue to operate in accordance with the requirements of the act. No areas of risk were identified. We continue to ensure that we support staff in working with existing and new suppliers through training and understanding of our processes embedded in our procurement practices to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking, and fully understand our duty as a Trust as prescribed in legislation namely in the form of e-learning. Safeguarding colleagues also cover modern slavery within their CPD programme.

Safeguarding

We take safeguarding incredibly seriously in upholding our statutory duties and striving to safeguard staff and pupils through a culture of safeguarding in everything we do. We have Designated Safeguarding Leads in every school. Collectively these colleagues work together to implement policy and secure excellence in safeguarding practice across the Trust. These colleagues are incredibly experienced in this area and model excellent practice for all staff. Through their encouragement, each academy proactively works with the local authorities, the local safeguarding partnerships, the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) and local stakeholders to combat safeguarding issues, including child sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Their good practice is shared amongst the academies and the focus of safeguarding training always includes detailed training about early identification of those at risk of exploitation.

The quality and impact of our safeguarding practice is reviewed at every level of Trust governance. Safeguarding policy and practice is reviewed and monitored by the CEO, the executive Directors and the EA to the CEO. Safeguarding is also regularly reported to both the Local Governing Bodies.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at every full Board of Trustees meeting, and we have a named Trustee with portfolio responsibility for Safeguarding.

Our model local Authority based Beyond Schools Trust Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies are reviewed annually by the Executive Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees. It is fully compliant with all statutory requirements and guidance set out in the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education

Key Performance Indicators to Measure Effectiveness of Steps Being Taken

Training

Every member of staff, whether or not they are based in a school, has received safeguarding training (either in person or via e-learning) and is required to declare annually that they have read and understood the policy and their training. In addition, Beyond Schools Trust also has a Whistleblowing Policy which enables those with concerns about any wrongdoing or breaches of law, to raise these concerns in confidence without fear of disciplinary action.

Throughout the year the annual safeguarding training plan across the Trust includes a detailed focus upon on early identification of those at risk of exploitation and training to help all staff know what to do if they become aware of any potential risks. We are fully satisfied that through our robust safeguarding training that staff could identify and act appropriately for at risk pupils, staff, and contractors.

This is not an area for complacency however and we keep under closely scrutiny and evaluation our safeguarding policy and practice. This enables us to refine and develop excellence in all we do and in this Modern Slavery Statement for 2024 – 2025 we recognise the continuing impact of the pandemic is not to be underestimated as we continually enhance the knowledge of our staff to prevent slavery and human trafficking and child sexual exploitation.

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.

Reporting

To date, no referrals have been made in relation to modern slavery.