

Anti-Slavery Statement and Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Halesowen College has a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery, and we are committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all our activities and relationships and, to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to combat modern slavery within our activities.

Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It takes various forms, such as slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking, all of which have in common the deprivation of a person's liberty by another in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain.

We are committed to ensuring there is transparency in our approach to tackling modern slavery throughout our supply chains, consistent with our disclosure obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

We expect the same high standards from all of our contractors, suppliers and other partners, and as part of our contracting processes, we will include specific prohibitions against the use of forced, compulsory or trafficked labour, or anyone held in slavery or servitude, whether adults or children, and we expect that our suppliers will hold their own suppliers to the same high standards. We will not do business with any organisation, in the UK or overseas which knowingly supports or is found to be involved in slavery and forced/compulsory labour.

This policy applies to all persons working for us or on our behalf in any capacity, including employees at all levels, agency workers, volunteers, contractors, external consultants, third-party representatives and partners.

Jo Chilton
Chair

Date

Jo Williams
Principal

Date

Background

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 required the organisation to make public the efforts made to develop transparent supply chains and recognise responsibilities in eradicating this crime.

As part of the safeguarding responsibilities, the College must recognise the potential impact of modern day slavery and human trafficking; report concerns and take action as required.

The College has a responsibility to be alert to the risks, however small, in its activities and in the wider supply chain.

The Current Duty

Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, requires commercial organisations with a total annual turnover of at least £36 million to prepare a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year. The statement must set out the steps that the organisation has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains, and in any part of its own business. There is no duty to take any such steps, only to publish a statement; an organisation can comply with the duty by publishing a statement confirming that it has not taken any steps.

Our policy statement is published on the website, with a link to it from the homepage.

Principal Risks

The key risks to the College would be:

- Failure to fulfil statutory and moral responsibilities in the safeguarding of students which includes modern slavery, human trafficking and violation of human rights.
- Trading with a contractor or sub-contractor using slavery/forced labour including human trafficking or child labour and/or where workplace conditions such as working hours and health and safety are inadequate. This is an increased risk where the supply chain is multi-layered and/or in sourcing goods and services from parts of the developing world.
- Not having clear and well-communicated policies and procedures for concerns to be raised and addressed.
- Failure to train key staff, and raise awareness throughout College.

The risk register contains a section on modern slavery.

As part of the initiative to identify and mitigate risk:

- Clear and accessible policies for procurement and safeguarding;
- Without compromising value for money, wherever possible the College builds professional relationships with local suppliers and always makes clear the expectations of business behaviour;
- With national or international supply chains the point contact should, wherever possible, be with a UK branch;
- As part of the tender process the College requests the company's anti-slavery policy statement should they be in scope;

- Systems to encourage the reporting of concerns and the protection of whistleblowers are in place. Concerns regarding the supply chain and/or procurement practices should be made to the Vice Principal/Chief Operating Officer. Safeguarding concerns should be made in accordance with the College policy.

Responsibility for the Policy

The College has overall responsibility for ensuring this policy complies with our legal and ethical obligations, and that all those under our control comply with it.

The College has primary and day-to-day responsibility for implementing this policy, monitoring its use and effectiveness, dealing with any queries about it, and auditing internal control systems and procedures to ensure they are effective in countering modern slavery.

Management at all levels are responsible for ensuring those reporting to them understand and comply with this policy and are given adequate and regular training on it and the issue of modern slavery in supply chains.

Staff are invited to comment on this policy and suggest ways in which it might be improved. and should be addressed to a member of the College Leadership Team.

Compliance with the policy

All staff must read, understand and comply with this policy.

The prevention, detection and reporting of modern slavery in any part of our business or supply chains is the responsibility of all staff.

All staff must notify their line manager as soon as possible if it is believed or suspected that a conflict with this policy has occurred or may occur in the future.

Staff are encouraged to raise concerns about any issue or suspicion of modern slavery in any parts of our business or supply chains of any supplier tier at the earliest possible stage.

If you believe or suspect a breach of this policy has occurred or that it may occur, you must notify your line manager or report it in accordance with the Whistleblowing Policy as necessary as soon as possible.

The College will aim to encourage openness and will support anyone who raises genuine concerns in good faith under this policy, even if they turn out to be mistaken. We are committed to ensuring no one suffers any detrimental treatment as a result of reporting in good faith their suspicion that modern slavery of whatever form is or may be taking place in any part of our own activities or in any of our supply chains.

Communication & Awareness of this Policy

Our zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery must be communicated to all suppliers, contractors and partners at the outset of our business relationship with them and reinforced as appropriate thereafter.

Breaches of this Policy

Any employee who breaches this policy will face disciplinary investigation, which could result in a disciplinary penalty in accordance with our policy. The College may terminate relationships with other individuals and organisations working on our behalf if they breach this policy.

Reviewed	By	Date
Updated by	Jacque Carman	23/03/2023
Approved by	CLT	28/03/2023
Review Date		01/02/2024