



Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust

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Modern Slavery (Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking) Policy Statement

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Modern Slavery Act

Every incorporated organisation or partnership carrying on a business in the UK with a total annual turnover of £36 million or more is required to produce a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year. Ahead of reaching this turnover, BBCET has voluntarily adopted and published the policy below.



1. Purpose

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.

The Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust (BBCET) has a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery and we are committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure modern slavery is not taking place anywhere in our own business or in any of our supply chains.

The Trust is also committed to ensuring there is transparency in our own business and 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 business partners. As part of our contracting processes, we 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.

2. Scope/to whom this statement/policy applies

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

This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and the Trust may amend it at any time.

3. Related policies and procedures

This Modern Slavery (Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking) Policy interacts with the following workplace policies and procedures which can be found on the BBCET website:



- Whistleblowing Policy

4. Responsibility for policy

The Trust Board have overall responsibility for this policy, and together with senior management and managers who have day-to-day responsibility, they must ensure compliance with our legal and ethical obligation.

The Chief Operating Officer (Trust) and Headteacher (school) have 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.

5. Compliance with this policy

You must notify your line manager and COO as soon as possible if you believe or suspect that a conflict with this policy has occurred, or may occur in the future.

You 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 manager or the COO or you may report it in accordance with our Whistleblowing Policy as soon as possible. If you are unsure about whether a particular act, the treatment of workers more generally, or their working conditions within any tier of our supply chains constitutes any of the various forms of modern slavery, raise it with your line manager or the COO at BBCET.

We 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. The Trust is 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 business or in any of our supply chains. Detrimental treatment includes dismissal, disciplinary action, threats or other unfavourable treatment connected with raising a concern. If you believe that you have suffered any such treatment, you should inform the COO immediately. If the matter is not remedied, and you are an employee, you should raise it formally using the Grievance Procedure which can be found on the Trust's website.

6. Communication and awareness of this policy

Training on this policy will be provided as necessary.

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

7. Breaches of this policy

Any employee who breaches this policy will face disciplinary action, which could result in dismissal for misconduct or gross misconduct.

The Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust may terminate our relationship with other individuals and organisations working on our behalf if they breach this policy.