

## The Consortium Trust Modern Slavery Statement

This statement is made pursuant to section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

### Introduction

Consortium Trust (the Trust) aims to maintain and enhance the position of community schools at the heart of our communities across East Anglia. As of January 2025, it comprised of 11 primary schools, 2 special schools within Suffolk & Norfolk, 1 Nursey & Early Years Centre of Excellence and an unregulated-Alternate Provision with around 600 employees and an annual turnover of £17 million.

The schools/settings are:

- Barnby North Cove Primary School, The Street, Barnby, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 7QB
- Glebeland Primary School, Beccles Road, Toftmonks, Norfolk, NR34 0EW
- Henley Primary School, Ashbocking Road, Henley, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 0QX
- Helmingham Primary School, School Road, Helmingham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 6EX
- Kirkley Nursery & Early Years Centre of Excellence, Kirkley Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 0LU
- Mendham Primary School, Mendham, Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 0NJ
- Middleton Primary School, Rectory Road, Middleton, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 3NW
- Rendlesham Primary School, Sycamore Drive, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2GF
- Riverwalk Special School, Mayfield Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 2PD
- Southwold Primary School, Cumberland Road, Southwold, Suffolk, IP18 6JP
- St Edmund's Primary School, Heckfield Green, Hoxne, Eye, Suffolk, IP21 5AD
- The Link U-AP, 1<sup>st</sup> Fressingfield Scout HQ, Priory Road, Fressingfield, Suffolk, IP21 5PH
- Warren Special School, Clarkes Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 8HT
- Winterton Primary School, Black Street, Winterton on Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR29 4AP
- Yoxford & Peasenhall Primary School, High Street, Yoxford, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 3EU

The Trust Board is the legal governing body of all schools and settings within the Trust and remains accountable in law to OFSTED and the Department for Education for the exercise of its functions. Trustees, who are appointed on a voluntary basis, are drawn from the public and private sector, and bring significant educational and other professional expertise. Consortium Trust procures services and goods from third party providers predominantly based within the UK.

In line with our values, the Trust is committed to ensuring there is no modern slavery or human trafficking within any part of its business or supply chain.

**Our policies to resist modern slavery and human trafficking.** We have reviewed our existing policies and procedures in light of the Act. We are confident that our policies promote good behaviour among our colleagues at work and within our Trust. Our policies and procedures are kept under review to make sure that they reflect the changing needs of the Trust and of the staff, students/pupils and the communities it serves.

Among the policies that we consider give us strength in avoiding modern slavery or human trafficking under the Act in the Trust are:

- Equality Statement
- Pay Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Recruitment & Selection Policy

- Safer Recruitment Policy and Procedures
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistleblowing Policy

The Trust employs people solely within England. Our recruitment processes are set out in our Recruitment & Selection Policy and ensure that all prospective employees are legally entitled to work in the UK. A copy of the policy is on our website [here](#).

Each school and setting has an annual safeguarding audit.

The Trust's Financial Regulations include reference to the Modern Slavery Act in relation to procurement. We are determined that there shall be no modern slavery or human trafficking in Consortium Trust. Our policies evidence our commitment to act ethically and with integrity throughout our organisation. All tenders for supply of services and or goods include a requirement for the supplier to report on their ethical trading including ensuring they also comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The suppliers the Trust use have their own statements, provided via links below.

[Vertas Statement](#)

[Espo](#)

[Suffolk County Council](#)

[Norfolk County Council](#)

[EduPAY](#)

### **Focus in our schools on slavery & human trafficking**

All our schools and settings work towards raising awareness of slavery & human trafficking through:

- Educating colleagues, pupils & students, and parents / carers
- Child protection / family support work, where human trafficking has been highlighted as a risk in a school.
- Training and continuing vigilance
- We have discussed the Act, its purpose and the Trust's attitude to it at a Trust Board meeting and will continue to do this at least annually.
- We have alerted the Executive Leadership Team to it and challenged them to continue to consider where the risk of modern slavery or human trafficking may arise in the Trust.
- We have provided guidance to our procurement team members on the need to avoid those risks and on possible indicators of them during procurement.
- We will continue to enhance the assurances we seek from suppliers as to their avoidance of modern slavery and human trafficking.

### **Planned activities**

Over the next 12 months we will build on the work already done to further develop our anti modern slavery policies and procedures.

Planned activities include:

- Continuously updating our procurement and key policies across the Trust.
- Ensuring that modern slavery is addressed throughout the procurement process by implementing new due diligence and risk checks that evaluate potential suppliers in relation to modern slavery and identify improvements before they enter the supply chain.
- Providing specific Modern Slavery Act training to key individuals and teams across the Trust who are responsible for managing contractual relationships.



**Approval**

This statement has been approved and signed by

Steve Martin

Chair of the Trust Board .....SMartin.....

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne

Chief Executive Officer ..........

Date: January 2024

**Document Control**

**Changes History**

Version	Date	Amended By	Details of Change
V2	31/01/2023	Principal/CEO	Annual Review
V3	15/01/2024	CEO	Annual Review
V4	17/12/2024	CEO	Annual Review

**Approval**

Name	Job Title	Signed	Date
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	CEO	Electronic signature on behalf of Exec committee	13/3/2023
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	CEO	Electronic signature on behalf of Exec committee	15/2/2024
Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	CEO	Electronic signature on behalf of Trust Borad	13/02/2025

This statement will be reviewed annually by CEO or as required by changes in legislation.

At every review, this policy will be approved by the Trust Board.

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