



WICKERSLEY  
PARTNERSHIP  
TRUST.

# MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT

2024

**WICKERSLEY PARTNERSHIP TRUST**

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 [wickersleypt.org](http://wickersleypt.org) **CEO:** Mrs H O'Brien



# Modern Slavery Statement

## **Our modern slavery statement.**

This statement is made pursuant to section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, for the financial year ending 31 August 2023.

Modern slavery is a crime resulting in an abhorrent abuse of human rights. It is constituted in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 by the offences of 'slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour' and 'human trafficking'. Wickersley Partnership Trust will not tolerate modern slavery and encourages all those employed by the Trust, or associated with it, to take a proactive approach to tackling this type of crime. The Trust have not had cause to believe that modern slavery practices have occurred within the Trust or within its supply chains, but remain keenly aware of the need for continued vigilance.

## **Introduction**

Wickersley Partnership Trust (WPT) is a Multi-Academy Trust, with 8 primary schools and 5 secondary schools located in Rotherham and Gainsborough. WPT employs over 1,000 people and has an annual turnover in excess of £36m. Our main business operations are in the provision of education, though we are supported by a large number of suppliers of various sizes, the vast majority of which are entirely UK based.

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.

We are proud to serve families from a variety of backgrounds, including those that have arrived from the EU or have arrived in the UK via resettlement or refugee schemes.

## **Our vision**

Wickersley Partnership Trust was founded in 2014. It exists to further the interests of the young people that it serves. We believe that education empowers and enriches. Our vision is to send all children into the world able and qualified to take their full part in it.

## **Our work**

At Wickersley Partnership Trust, we aim to create an atmosphere where each child is valued as an individual, enabling them to develop a positive self-image, self-discipline and respect for others. Students in our care are happy, enthusiastic resilient and purposeful learners. We want all the students within WPT to grow into confident, caring and well-educated adults and this will require students, parents and teachers to work together in true partnership.

## **Our values**

We place a strong emphasis on our core values. We celebrate our rich diversity and work in partnership with parents, children and the wider community. As a Trust we work to continuously improve our practices to ensure that modern slavery and human trafficking are not present within our own organisation or our supply chains. We strive to act ethically and with integrity in all our activities.

All forms of child trafficking and modern slavery are abuse and therefore the Trust's safeguarding procedures as defined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy must be followed. This would usually be the Designated Safeguarding Officers or Headteachers in the first instance, but via the Local Authority and police if necessary.

### **Risk Management & Due Diligence**

WPT deem the risk of systemic modern slavery within the Trust itself to be very low. This is because recruitment to the Trust takes place within a highly professional framework and employees are subject to legal checks, including Right to Work and an enhanced DBS. The Trust are, however, insistent that even one instance of modern slavery is one too many and are clear on the need to maintain vigilance.

The Trust deem the risk of systemic modern slavery within the Trust's supply chains to be low. This is because of our mature procurement processes. A considerable proportion of our procurement is with suppliers who are pre-approved either by a purchasing consortium or appointed through means of a tender process. The Trust also makes extensive use of services provided by Local Authorities. Nevertheless, the Trust considers that this risk may have increased in the last four years as the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis has made people more susceptible to the insecure, low-paid work that exists at the borderline with modern slavery. We expect our suppliers to fulfil their obligations to comply with the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act. We undertake checks to ensure that our suppliers are compliant with section 54 (Transparency in Supply Chains) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and publish an annual statement setting out the steps they take to prevent modern slavery in their business and their supply chains.

Our supply chains include:

- Education equipment and resources suppliers
- Estate management maintenance and services
- ICT equipment and services
- Catering services and supplies
- Supply/agency staff

### **Training for staff**

All WPT staff have received Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance 2023 – Part 1 and have also been given training in 'Essentials – Safeguarding and Child Protection', both of which reference the issues of exploitation and trafficking. Modern Slavery Training will be provided to staff during the academic year via our online training platform. Safer Recruitment training is also given to those employees who are involved in the recruitment process.

### **Policies**

We have a wide policy framework that supports the aims of the Modern Slavery Act including:

- Anti-Fraud (within the Financial Procedures Policy)
- Anti-Bribery Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Recruitment Policy

- Pay Policy
- Tender and Procurement Policy
- Equal Opportunities
- Harassment and Bullying Policy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', with a small comma or flourish at the end.

Steve Calvert  
**Chair of Directors**