

Anti-slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Introduction

1. This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes the college's slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 July 2023.
2. Bedford College is committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in its supply chains or in any part of its services.
3. This statement sets out the preventative steps that the college is taking (and intends to take) to avoid the risk of modern slavery occurring within college services.

Organisational structure

4. The college is a further education college with approximately 1,500 staff, operating in the United Kingdom. Its core business is teaching a learner population of approximately 24,000 students.
5. The college has an annual turnover of £80m of which approximately £25m is spent on goods and services to support the running of the college.

Due diligence processes

6. As part of our initiative to identify and mitigate the risks of modern slavery occurring in any part of college services, the college will adopt due diligence processes that are proportionate to any risk areas identified (dependent on the severity of the risk and other relevant factors). These processes will be subject to on-going assessment and review.
7. The college has in place systems to:
 - Identify and assess the potential risk areas in our supply chains.
 - Mitigate the risk of slavery and human trafficking occurring in our supply chains.
 - Protect whistle blowers.

Supply chains

8. When procuring any types of goods or services, the college requires any potential third party suppliers to evidence that they operate a high level of corporate social responsibility during any tendering and selection process.
9. Any supplier or potential supplier that is found not to comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, or the college's own policies and procedures, will not be considered for future supply to the college unless they can demonstrate that these compliance requirements are met.

Training

10. To ensure a high level of understanding of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains and our business, we provide training to our staff.

Recruitment practices


11. Temporary staff and staff recruited indirectly by the college are recruited through agreed, reputable recruitment agencies. To mitigate the risk of any potential occurrences of modern slavery, the college conducts checks on such agencies before they are approved.
12. Through its recruitment processes, the college ensures that all approved recruitment agencies conduct all relevant pre-recruitment checks and provide evidence that all such checks have been conducted.

College

13. The college already implements the following policies, which embed good practice and provide remedies for individuals concerned about any potential instances of modern slavery in any part of college business.
14. The college operates the following policies:
 - **Grievance and raising concerns policies** – these policies allow employees, students and others to raise concerns, which would include circumstances giving rise to a risk of modern slavery, without fear of retaliation.
 - **Staffing policy** – this sets out the actions and behaviour expected of them whilst employed by the college. The college strives to maintain the highest standards of employee conduct and ethical behaviour when managing its supply chain
 - **Anti-bribery and corruption policy** – the college is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity in its business activities. The college will not tolerate any form of bribery or corruption by its employees or any person or body acting on its behalf
 - **Financial regulations** – this policy reflects the college's commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in procurement arrangements, as well as implementing and enforcing effective and proportionate safeguards and controls.
 - **Recruitment policy** – this policy ensures that the college follows transparent recruitment processes, including measures to prevent illegal working and compliance with other relevant statutory requirements.


Managing risk

15. Where the college has identified risks of modern slavery occurring in any part of its services, it will declare these risks on the corporate risk register and measure progress against reducing such risks. The college will consider the level of risk in the following contexts:
- Use of grievance and raising concerns procedures by staff about instances of modern slavery
 - Training and awareness-raising amongst staff including risk management; appropriate decision-making and timely remedial action
 - Oversight of third party suppliers of relevant goods and services supply chains
16. This statement will be made available to all staff members, stakeholders and the general public by publication on our website. We will also seek to raise awareness of the risks of modern slavery amongst staff by other measures, including discussion of this statement during the induction process for new employees, where appropriate.
17. Having assessed the training needs for staff operating in different parts of the college, the college will look at devising and implementing training and awareness-raising methods attuned to relevant staffing groups. Training courses may be devised in cooperation with external, specialist training providers.
18. This statement has been approved by the college's governing body and will be reviewed at least once annually.

Signed 

Ian Pryce CBE
CEO and Principal

Date: 4/12/23

Signed 

Allan Schofield
Chair of Governors

Date: 4/12/23