# Modern Slavery Statement

Person responsible for policy:  Transformation Director

Revised: March 2023

Review Date: December 2023

**The River Learning Trust (RLT) Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement**

## 1. Aims

This statement sets out River Learning Trust's (RLT's) actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to its business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its business and supply chains. This statement relates to actions and activities during the year September 2021 – August 2022.

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This statement is written in accordance with section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the statutory guidance "Transparency in supply chains: a practical guide" published by the Home Office, last updated 13 December 2021, and the Home Office guidance "Publish an annual modern slavery statement" last updated July 2021.

## 3. Roles and Responsibilities

- The Board of Trustees is responsible for approving the annual statement, as soon as possible after the year end.
- The Transformation Director is responsible for preparing the statement, and submitting it to the Modern Slavery Statement Registry.
- A copy of the statement should be available on the Trust's website, with a link promoted prominently on the homepage.

## 4. Statement Requirements

a. Organisation structure and supply chains

RLT is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) of 28 schools and a School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) with a clear geographical context operating in Oxfordshire and Swindon. A list of our schools can be found on RLT's website.

As an academy trust, RLT is a charitable company with the purpose of advancing education by maintaining and developing academy schools, to provide comprehensive and inclusive education for the public benefit, funded by the Department for Education. RLT has two secondary objects: to promote for the benefit of inhabitants in the areas of their constituent Academies the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupations, and to promote pre-primary education.

The scheme of delegation allows schools to manage low and medium level procurements, up to the value of £75K. Large procurements are managed centrally. The Trust favours using Frameworks, but will run project specific tender exercises where required.

b. Policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;

The Trust implements several policies which help to support our anti-slavery stance, including:

- Staff Code of Conduct
- Anti-fraud Policy and Response Plan
- Procurement Policy

- Gifts and hospitality policy
- Whistleblowing policy
- 2022/23 Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy

c. Due diligence

We will require new suppliers, with above the threshold of £36M, to confirm they abide by the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Public Sector Frameworks, by their nature, have Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking assessments pre-built into their processes. For significant procurements managed by the Trust, suppliers are required to confirm they are compliant in this area as part of the Selection Questionnaire stage of a tender.

We are reviewing our existing suppliers to ensure that they comply with the act.

d. Risk assessment and management

There are two main avenues of risk through which modern slavery could impact RLT. The first is through matters relating to safeguarding, which covers child sex exploitation or human trafficking which can directly impact our pupils. This also potentially affects the staff of our contractors. The second is our supply chain and the vendors we contract.

Our robust Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment practices seek to support pupils in our system. While our procurement processes manage risks with

e. Key performance indicators to measure effectiveness of steps being taken

This year, 3 referrals have been made in relation to modern slavery. In the academic year 2021-22, there have been 5 referrals made for child sexual exploitation.

f. Training on modern slavery and trafficking

We have discussed the Act, its purpose and the Trust's attitude to it at a Board of Trustee meeting. We have cascaded the information to our schools and asked for them to consider where the risk of modern slavery or human trafficking may arise within the Trust and to ensure staff are aware how to report any concerns they might have.

**5. Review**

This statement is reviewed on an annual basis. The next review date is December 2023