

## Modern Slavery Act Statement 2025/26

### **Introduction:**

City of Portsmouth College is committed to preventing modern slavery and human trafficking in all aspects of our operations and supply chains. As a Further Education College established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 and an exempt charity under the Charities Act 2011, we recognise our responsibility to uphold the highest ethical standards. This statement outlines the steps we have taken during the financial year ending 31 July 2025 to identify, assess, and mitigate risks related to modern slavery, in accordance with Section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

### **Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement:**

City of Portsmouth College's core values lie at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to operating our business responsibly and in accordance with the highest standards, which are embedded in our core values.

Slavery and human trafficking are incompatible with the Values of the College, which are:

- Learning for life, work, and global citizenship
- Leadership, accountability, trust
- Innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship
- Teamwork
- Championing equality and diversity
- Celebrating success
- High expectations
- Sustainability matters

We expect the same high standards from our suppliers and all external stakeholders we work with.

- Our procurement policy helps us to consider issues around modern slavery and human trafficking with our suppliers.
- We have policies and procedures in place to encourage and respond to public interest disclosures and to protect whistleblowers.
- We will work with our principal suppliers to ensure that our approach to slavery and human trafficking is reflected in all our purchases of goods and services, so that neither we nor they are involved in any way, either directly or indirectly, in slavery and human trafficking.

### **Our Commitment:**

We are committed to ensuring that slavery and human trafficking have no place in our business or our supply chain.

This statement has been approved by the College Leadership Team and the College's Governing Body. It will be reviewed annually.

### **Supplier Due Diligence and Risk Assessment:**

The College is committed to ethical procurement practices and ensuring that modern slavery and human trafficking are not present in its supply chains. In line with the College's Procurement and Contract Management Policy, our supplier due diligence process includes:

- **Pre-Procurement Ethical Screening:** At the preparation and planning stage, we assess how proposed procurements might improve the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of the community. This includes evaluating suppliers' labour practices, sustainability credentials, and compliance with human rights standards.
- **Standard Qualification Questionnaire (SQQ):** All suppliers are required to complete the SQQ, which includes declarations on compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, safeguarding policies, and fair labour practices.
- **Contractual Safeguards:** Procurement contracts include clauses that prohibit modern slavery and require suppliers to cascade these obligations throughout their supply chains. These clauses are aligned with the College's standard terms and conditions.
- **Risk-Based Supplier Evaluation:** Suppliers are assessed based on sector, geography, and nature of goods/services. High-risk suppliers undergo enhanced scrutiny, including sustainability checks and social value assessments as defined under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013.
- **Monitoring and Compliance:** Purchasing Managers are responsible for ongoing supplier monitoring and must report any irregularities to the Chief Operating Officer. All procurement activity must comply with the College's Financial Regulations and ethical standards.
- **Sustainability and Social Value Integration:** Specifications may include requirements for Fair Trade certification, energy efficiency, and net zero carbon contributions. These considerations are embedded in the procurement request process and reflect the College's broader sustainability goals.

These measures are overseen by the Head of Procurement and form part of our broader commitment to ethical business practices.

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54 part 6 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our College's slavery and human trafficking statement for the academic year ending 31 July 2026.