



Modern Slavery Act Statement

This statement sets out the steps the Trust has taken, during the **financial year ending 31st August 2024** to address the risk of modern slavery within our business activities and the steps the Trust will take, to combat modern slavery and human trafficking.

Introduction

The St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust (the Trust), in accordance with the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015, is committed to preventing modern slavery and human trafficking within its operations and supply chains. This statement outlines the steps we have taken to understand, prevent, and mitigate the risk of modern slavery.

Our Commitment

The Trust acknowledges the responsibility to combat modern slavery and is dedicated to promoting transparency and ethical conduct. We recognise that modern slavery can take various forms, including but not limited to forced labour, child labour, human trafficking, and other exploitative practices.

Our Operations and Supply Chains

As an educational establishment, we operate with a commitment to the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. While our core activities primarily involve education, we acknowledge that our supply chains, including procurement of goods and services, may be susceptible to modern slavery risks.

Steps Taken

Risk Assessment: The Trust uses a risk-based approach to managing its supply chains, based on risk by category, country, and the strategic importance of the product/service to the Trust.

Policies and Procedures: We have implemented and continue to update policies and procedures that reflect our commitment to preventing modern slavery. These include clear guidelines for our staff and suppliers on ethical conduct and human rights.

Due Diligence: We have established a due diligence process for assessing the risk of modern slavery in our supply chains. This includes asking new suppliers additional questions at the assessment stage to consider how suppliers manage their own supply chain risk.

Training and Awareness: All our staff receive regular safeguarding training which includes raising awareness about modern slavery and its indicators. This empowers our staff to identify and report any potential cases.

Supplier Engagement: We engage with our suppliers to communicate our expectations regarding ethical conduct, and we encourage them to adopt similar principles in their own operations and supply chains.

Next Steps

Moving forward, the Trust is committed to continuous improvement in its efforts to combat modern slavery.

Our next steps include:

Enhanced Due Diligence: We will further enhance our due diligence processes to ensure a thorough assessment of all aspects of our supply chains, including subcontractors and service providers.

Collaboration: We will collaborate with sister Trusts and other stakeholders to share best practices and stay informed about emerging issues related to modern slavery.

Reporting and Transparency: We will regularly review and update this statement, ensuring transparency about our efforts and progress in addressing modern slavery risks.

Empowering Stakeholders: We will continue to educate and engage with our stakeholders, including students, staff, and the wider community, to foster a culture of awareness and responsibility.

By taking these steps, the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust is dedicated to creating an environment free from modern slavery and promoting ethical practices throughout its operations and supply chains.