



## **Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement For the financial year ending 31 July 2026**

### **Introduction**

This statement sets out the actions taken by Myerscough College to identify, prevent, and mitigate the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking within our business and supply chains. It is published in accordance with section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and covers the financial year ending 31 July 2026.

We recognise our responsibility to uphold the highest ethical standards and to take a proactive approach in addressing the risks of modern slavery.

### **Our Commitment**

Myerscough College is committed to:

- Preventing modern slavery and human trafficking in all aspects of our operations.
- Requiring our suppliers and business partners to adopt the same high standards.
- Continually strengthening our practices, training, and oversight to reduce the risk of exploitation.

### **Our Organisation**

Myerscough College is a Further and Higher Education provider with campuses in Preston, Liverpool, Manchester and Warrington. Founded in 1894 with an agricultural heritage, the College now offers a diverse curriculum in land-based industries, sport, and a wide range of vocational and academic disciplines. In the 2024/25 financial year, the College reported a turnover of approximately £40 million, with around £13 million spent on goods and services (excluding capital development). The organisation employs approximately 745 members of staff and provides education to a student population of around 4,900 learners.

### **Relevant Policies**

We operate a range of policies and procedures to support ethical business conduct and reduce the risk of modern slavery:



- **Whistleblowing Policy** – enables staff, students, and partners to raise concerns, including those relating to modern slavery, without fear of retaliation.
- **Employee and Volunteer Code of Conduct** – sets out expected standards of behaviour.
- **Counter Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy** – reinforces zero tolerance of unethical practices.
- **Procurement Policy** – requires suppliers to commit to safe, fair, and legal employment practices.
- **Ethical Business Development & Sponsorship Policy** – ensures partnerships reflect high ethical standards.
- **Recruitment Policy** – includes robust pre-employment checks aligned to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025.
- **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy** – commits to safeguarding learners, staff, and those with links to the College.

## **Risk Areas**

We have identified the following as areas of higher risk within our operations and supply chains:

- Estates and facilities management.
- IT hardware and consumables.
- Catering and food supply chains.
- Outsourced service providers.
- Recruitment agencies.

## **Supply Chains**

Myerscough College has introduced and will continue to strengthen:

- **Supplier Declarations** – new and high-risk suppliers are required to confirm compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- **Contractual Clauses** – modern slavery obligations are embedded into tender documentation and contracts wherever appropriate.
- **Supplier Risk Reviews** – high-risk categories (catering, estates, IT, recruitment agencies) are prioritised for review during 2025/26.

## **Recruitment Practices**

All agency-supplied staff are recruited through approved providers who are required to sign a *Safeguarding & Safer Recruitment Provider Agreement*.

This agreement confirms that the agency has completed all statutory pre-employment checks and that it operates in line with the principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.



## **Training and Awareness**

Awareness of modern slavery remains an important aspect of how we manage our responsibilities. Procurement staff and members of the People Team are encouraged to keep up to date with developments in legislation and good practice, and information is shared with managers and staff where appropriate.

## **Measuring Effectiveness**

We monitor our progress through the following indicators:

- Percentage of high-risk suppliers required to complete a modern slavery declaration.
- Percentage of staff with procurement responsibilities trained in modern slavery awareness.
- Number of whistleblowing reports received and actions taken.
- Annual review of recruitment agency compliance.

## **Approval**

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 July 2026.

This statement has been reviewed and endorsed by the Senior Management Team and approved by the Corporation Board. It will be subject to annual review.

**Chair of the Corporation**

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

**Chief Executive and Principal**

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025