



The  
**Maltby** Learning Trust

# MLT Child Trafficking and Modern Slavery

Date Last Reviewed: March 2019  
Reviewed by: Executive Principal (Primary)  
Approved by: CEO

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This policy provides specific information about modern slavery and the Maltby Learning Trust's approach to ensuring that it works proactively to recognise and prevent it as well as educate students about the risks and dangers it presents.

## 2. DEFINITION

Modern Slavery is a form of organised crime in which individuals, including children and young people are treated as commodities and exploited for criminal gain. Victims and perpetrators (often known as traffickers or slave drivers) may be of any gender. Perpetrators use grooming methods to gain the trust of their victims (eg promise of a better life, security for relatives including those who remain in the country of origin) to trick, force or persuade them to leave their homes.

Rotherham Local Children's Safeguarding Board states:

*'Children are not considered able to give 'informed consent' to their own exploitation (including criminal exploitation), so it is not necessary to consider the means used for the exploitation – whether they were forced, coerced or deceived ie a child's consent to being trafficked is irrelevant and it is not necessary to prove coercion or any other inducement.'*

## 3. FORMS OF MODERN SLAVERY

Child Modern Slavery/Child Trafficking affects boys and girls and can include 'internal trafficking' (ie within the UK) as well as out of the UK. Forms of modern slavery may include:

- Sex Trafficking: Children may be forced into sexual acts for money, food or accommodation and be moved around various towns and cities
- Work Slavery: Children may be found to work in domestic servitude, in brothels and saunas, in farms, factories, car washes, nail bars, hotels and restaurants. Children may also be exploited in cannabis cultivation.
- Criminal Exploitation: Children may be engaged as drug carriers, begging and pick-pocketing
- Others: Debt bondage; Organ harvesting; Benefit fraud

Children may often be subject to more than one type of abuse and more than one type of modern slavery, and may be sold between different groups of traffickers

## 4. POLICY CONTEXT

Trafficking and modern slavery constitute an abuse of human rights, when they affect children they constitute a child protection issue, regardless of the children's immigration status. Children and young people who are victims of child trafficking and child modern slavery are at risk of significant harm, including potential risk to life, through physical, sexual, psychological and emotional harm. It is important that professionals and volunteers working for MLT are fully informed about these issues and are educated to be alert to signs of risk.

## 5. POLICY STATEMENT

The safety and welfare of any victims of Child Trafficking and Child Modern Slavery is paramount. In safeguarding children at risk of these practices it is imperative that:

- A victim-centred approach is taken. Children should be dealt with sensitively to avoid them being alarmed or shamed. Victims are often fearful of authorities so building trust is key.
- Professionals should be mindful of a child's added vulnerability, developmental stage and possible grooming experience
- Careful, clear and accurate recording about information disclosed is imperative as a child's credibility can be challenged if the child is subject to immigration controls
- Confidentiality of information is particularly important as this may be key to ensuring the victim's safety, and the safety of their family. Professionals should not disclose information to anyone not directly involved in the case

## 6. RISK FACTORS FOR CHILD TRAFFICKING AND CHILD MODERN SLAVERY

The following should be considered as risk factors for all forms of Child Trafficking and Child Modern Slavery:

- Reluctance to seek help and/or extreme wariness of authorities
- Discrepancies in information provided; could be indicative of traffickers forcing them to provide incorrect stories
- Unwillingness to discuss concerns; may be in a situation of dependency
- Recently arrived from another country
- Unrelated child discovered at an address and/or private fostering arrangement
- Unsatisfactory and/or overcrowded living conditions
- Missing from home/school and pattern of registration/de-registration from different schools
- Spending a lot of time doing household chores
- Working in catering, nail bars, caring for children, cleaning and/or located in brothels and saunas
- Rarely leaving home with little freedom of movement
- Limited knowledge of local area and/or English language
- Few personal effects
- Physical appearance: evidence of malnourishment, unkempt appearance, overly tired
- Sexual health: STI's, pregnancy, sexual injuries
- Psychological trauma: PTSD symptoms including hostility, difficulty with memory recall and concentration; depression, self-harm, suicidal feelings, drug and substance misuse

## 7. RESPONSE BY SCHOOL STAFF

All forms of Child Trafficking and Child Modern Slavery are child abuse and therefore safeguarding procedures as defined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy must be followed. This would usually be to the Designated Safeguarding Officers or Academy Principal in the first instance but via the Local Authority's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) if necessary, on 01709 336080.

## 8. USEFUL CONTACTS

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board

[http://www.rscb.org.uk/safeguarding/homepage/55/female\\_general\\_mutilation](http://www.rscb.org.uk/safeguarding/homepage/55/female_general_mutilation)

Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC): Tel 0808 8005000

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/childrens-services/child-trafficking-advice-centre-ctac/>

Modern Slavery Helpline : Tel 08000 121700 <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/>

Gov UK: How to report modern slavery:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-report-modern-slavery/how-to-report-modern-slavery>