Social Value and Corporate Responsibility Policy	
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Policy prepared by	Director of Quality, Compliance & Excellence
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Purpose

Educationwise is committed to operating responsibly and creating positive social, economic and environmental value through its education, training and business activities.

Our main opportunity to create social value comes through:

- Helping people develop skills and progress
- Supporting access to education and employment
- Working with employers and communities
- Supporting inclusion
- Acting responsibly as an employer and business
- Making sensible environmental and purchasing decisions
- Delivering social value commitments made through contracts and tenders

This policy explains how Educationwise approaches social value and corporate responsibility in a way that is proportionate to our activities.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- Employees
- Directors
- Associates and contractors
- Learners
- Subcontractors
- Suppliers where relevant
- Employers and delivery partners

It applies across:

- Apprenticeships
- Adult Learning Provision
- Commercial provision
- Employer partnerships
- Subcontracted provision
- Procurement
- Recruitment

- Community activity
- Tender and contract delivery

For this policy, **Adult Learning Provision** includes programmes currently funded through Advanced Learner Loans and any future adult education funding streams delivered by Educationwise.

What we mean by social value

Social value is the wider positive social, economic and environmental benefit that can be created through an organisation's activities.

For Educationwise this may include:

- Helping people gain useful skills and qualifications
- Supporting people into employment or career progression
- Improving access to learning
- Supporting people who face barriers to education or employment
- Working with employers to develop their workforce
- Supporting local and wider communities
- Providing employment and development opportunities
- Making responsible purchasing decisions
- Reducing unnecessary environmental impact
- Supporting wellbeing
- Acting ethically and responsibly

Social value will vary depending on the programme, contract, learner group and community involved.

Our approach

Educationwise will focus on social value that is:

- Relevant to our work
- Realistic
- Deliverable
- Evidence-based where commitments are made
- Proportionate to the programme or contract
- Linked to positive outcomes for learners, employers, staff or communities

We will avoid making commitments that cannot reasonably be delivered or evidenced.

Where Educationwise makes a specific social value commitment through a tender or contract, the commitment will be recorded and monitored as part of the relevant contract arrangements.

Education and skills

Education and skills are at the centre of Educationwise's social value activity.

Educationwise will aim to:

- Provide high-quality education and training
- Help learners develop knowledge and skills that are useful in employment
- Support progression and positive destinations
- Provide clear information, advice and guidance
- Help learners understand future career opportunities
- Work with employers to understand workforce needs
- Support employees and learners to continue developing their skills
- Avoid unnecessary barriers to accessing learning

The support available will depend on the programme, learner needs and funding arrangements.

Employment and progression

Educationwise will support opportunities that help people develop and progress.

This may include:

- Apprenticeships
- Adult learning
- Professional and vocational qualifications
- Careers information, advice and guidance
- Employer-led training
- Progression within employment
- Support for people entering new sectors or roles
- Staff development

Educationwise will monitor learner progression and destinations where appropriate to the programme.

Inclusion and access

Educationwise is committed to fair access to learning and employment.

We will:

- Promote equality of opportunity
- Make reasonable adjustments where required
- Identify and respond to barriers affecting learners
- Support learners with additional needs
- Provide accessible information where reasonably possible
- Monitor relevant participation, progress and achievement information
- Respond where differences in outcomes or experience are identified
- Promote respectful and inclusive learning and working environments

These arrangements are supported by Educationwise's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Learner Support policies.

Learners facing barriers

Educationwise recognises that some learners may experience additional barriers to participation or progression.

Depending on the circumstances, support may include:

- Learning support
- Reasonable adjustments
- Wellbeing support
- Safeguarding support
- Careers guidance
- Support with attendance or engagement
- Signposting to external services
- Support with digital access
- Referral for more specialist support

Educationwise will focus on the learner's individual needs rather than assuming that everyone within a particular group requires the same support.

Employers and workforce development

Educationwise works with employers to support workforce development.

This may include:

- Understanding skills needs

- Supporting apprenticeship opportunities
- Helping employers develop existing staff
- Providing education and training
- Supporting career progression
- Sharing information about available training routes
- Supporting appropriate workplace learning
- Gathering employer feedback to improve provision

Employer feedback and labour market information may also be used to inform curriculum and programme development.

Community engagement

Educationwise may support communities through:

- Education and skills activity
- Partnerships with schools, charities, sports organisations and other community organisations
- Careers and employability activity
- Staff involvement in suitable community or charitable activity
- Sharing expertise or resources where appropriate
- Supporting programmes with a clear community benefit

Community activity will reflect available resources and organisational priorities.

Educationwise does not require every member of staff to undertake volunteering activity as part of this policy.

Responsible employment

Educationwise aims to be a responsible employer.

This includes:

- Fair recruitment
- Appropriate employment terms
- Staff development
- Equality and inclusion
- Health, safety and wellbeing
- Opportunities for professional development

- Clear routes for employees to raise concerns
- Ethical employment practices

Further requirements are set out within Educationwise's employment policies and procedures.

Staff development

Educationwise will support staff development where this benefits the employee, learners or organisation.

Development may include:

- Qualifications
- Apprenticeships
- Continuing professional development
- Internal training
- Coaching and mentoring
- Professional updating
- Conferences and events
- Development linked to new responsibilities

Development will be based on role requirements, organisational priorities and available resources.

Responsible procurement

Educationwise will make purchasing decisions based on factors such as:

- Quality
- Value for money
- Service requirements
- Reliability
- Security
- Data protection
- Ethical considerations
- Environmental impact where relevant
- Social value where relevant to the purchase or contract

Educationwise will not automatically select a local supplier or a particular type of organisation simply because of its location or status.

Where it is reasonable and offers suitable value and quality, Educationwise may consider opportunities to work with:

- Smaller suppliers
- Local businesses
- Social enterprises
- Voluntary and community organisations
- Organisations creating relevant social value

This approach supports fair and proportionate purchasing decisions.

Public sector contracts and tenders

Educationwise may deliver contracts commissioned by government departments, local authorities or other public bodies.

The Procurement Act 2023 came into force on 24 February 2025 and the National Procurement Policy Statement sets strategic priorities for public procurement. The current central government Social Value Model is set out in PPN 002.

Educationwise is a supplier rather than a contracting authority, so these requirements do not automatically apply to every Educationwise purchase or activity.

However, where a public sector tender or contract contains social value requirements, Educationwise will:

- Understand the requirements before making commitments
- Make commitments that are relevant and achievable
- Identify responsibility for delivery
- Maintain proportionate evidence
- Monitor delivery where required
- Report performance in line with the contract
- Raise concerns where a commitment is at risk of not being delivered

The current Social Value Model is intended to allow contracting authorities to select social value outcomes that are relevant and proportionate to the individual contract rather than requiring every outcome in every procurement.

Tender commitments

Social value commitments made within a successful tender may become contractual commitments.

Before Educationwise commits to a specific:

- Number of jobs
- Number of apprentices
- Training opportunity
- Work placement
- Volunteering activity
- Community project
- Environmental target
- Carbon reduction
- Supplier-spend target
- Other measurable social value outcome

the commitment should be checked to make sure it is realistic and deliverable.

The person responsible for the tender or contract should make sure agreed commitments are handed over to the relevant operational team.

Subcontractors and partners

Relevant subcontractors and delivery partners may contribute to Educationwise's social value activity.

Educationwise may:

- Include appropriate social value expectations within agreements
- Ask partners to support specific contractual commitments
- Collect relevant evidence where needed
- Review delivery through normal contract management arrangements

Requirements will be proportionate to the relationship and contract.

Educationwise will not create unnecessary social value reporting requirements for every supplier or subcontractor.

Environmental responsibility

Educationwise will take reasonable steps to reduce unnecessary environmental impact.

As a predominantly online provider, many Educationwise activities are delivered digitally. This may help reduce the need for routine travel and printed materials, although online activity itself also has an environmental impact.

Practical actions may include:

- Using online meetings where appropriate

- Avoiding unnecessary business travel
- Reducing unnecessary printing
- Using digital records where appropriate
- Considering environmental factors when buying equipment or services
- Using equipment efficiently
- Extending the useful life of equipment where secure and practical
- Recycling equipment through appropriate routes
- Reducing unnecessary waste
- Working with suppliers that demonstrate suitable environmental standards where this is relevant

Educationwise will not claim specific carbon reductions unless these have been properly measured.

Travel

Some travel remains important for:

- Employer engagement
- Quality assurance
- Learner support
- Staff development
- Business development
- Events
- Partnership activity

Educationwise will balance the value of face-to-face activity against cost, time and environmental impact.

The aim is not to remove necessary travel but to avoid unnecessary travel where an effective alternative is available.

Digital responsibility

Because Educationwise operates extensively through digital systems, responsible digital practice forms part of our wider corporate responsibility.

This includes:

- Protecting personal information
- Maintaining appropriate cybersecurity

- Using technology responsibly
- Considering accessibility
- Supporting learners who experience digital barriers
- Using artificial intelligence responsibly
- Avoiding unnecessary collection or retention of information
- Considering the environmental impact of technology purchasing and disposal

These requirements are supported by Educationwise's Data Protection, Privacy and Security policies.

Ethical business

Educationwise will conduct business with integrity.

This includes:

- Acting honestly
- Managing conflicts of interest
- Preventing fraud
- Preventing bribery and corruption
- Protecting personal information
- Supporting safeguarding
- Preventing modern slavery and exploitation
- Treating suppliers fairly
- Meeting relevant funding and contractual requirements
- Providing appropriate routes for concerns to be raised

These areas are covered in more detail within Educationwise's relevant policies.

Social value in curriculum and learning

Where relevant, social value may also be supported through curriculum and learner development.

This could include opportunities for learners to:

- Understand the impact of their role on others
- Develop professional behaviours
- Consider equality and inclusion
- Develop awareness of sustainability

- Contribute positively to their workplace or community
- Understand responsible working practices
- Develop employability and career skills

The content used will depend on the programme and should be relevant rather than added simply to evidence this policy.

Measuring social value

Educationwise will take a proportionate approach to measuring social value.

We will use information that already exists wherever possible rather than creating unnecessary additional reporting.

Evidence may include:

- Learner starts
- Achievement
- Progression and destination information
- Learner feedback
- Employer feedback
- Staff development
- Apprenticeship opportunities
- Community or partnership activity
- Inclusion outcomes
- Contract-specific social value measures
- Case studies
- Environmental actions
- Tender commitments delivered

Not every measure will apply every year or to every programme.

Contract-specific reporting

Where a customer requires specific social value measures, Educationwise will record and report these in line with the relevant contract.

This may include:

- Defined outcomes
- KPIs

- Evidence requirements
- Reporting periods
- Named responsibilities

Educationwise will use the customer's required methodology where this forms part of the contract.

We will avoid creating a separate organisation-wide calculation simply because one contract uses a particular social value measurement method.

Claims and evidence

Educationwise will make social value claims that can reasonably be supported.

Where figures or outcomes are published or included within:

- Tenders
- Reports
- Marketing
- Employer information
- Case studies

the information should be based on appropriate evidence.

Where an impact has not been formally measured, Educationwise will avoid presenting an estimate as a confirmed result.

Roles and responsibilities

Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for:

- Overall oversight of this policy
- Supporting responsible business practice
- Considering relevant social value priorities
- Reviewing significant commitments
- Supporting delivery of major contractual commitments
- Escalating significant issues where required

Directors and managers

Directors and managers are responsible for:

- Considering social value within their areas

- Supporting relevant learner, employer and community outcomes
- Ensuring commitments made within their area are realistic
- Monitoring agreed actions
- Providing suitable evidence where required
- Escalating concerns

Business development and tender activity

Staff involved in tenders and business development should:

- Understand social value requirements within the opportunity
- Work with operational teams before making significant commitments
- Avoid commitments that cannot reasonably be delivered
- Clearly record commitments made in successful bids
- Ensure commitments are included within contract handover

Delivery and curriculum teams

Delivery and curriculum staff support social value through:

- High-quality education and training
- Learner support
- Careers and progression activity
- Employer engagement
- Inclusion
- Learner development

They may also support specific contract commitments where these relate to programme delivery.

All staff

All staff are expected to:

- Act responsibly
- Treat people fairly
- Use organisational resources sensibly
- Follow relevant Educationwise policies
- Support agreed social value activity relevant to their role
- Provide accurate information about activity or outcomes

Governance

Social value will normally be managed through existing Educationwise governance rather than a separate committee.

Relevant information may be considered through:

- Senior Leadership Team
- Quality and Compliance Committee
- Relevant risk committees
- Master Risk Committee
- Board
- Contract or employer reviews
- Quality Improvement Plan

The route used will depend on the issue.

Significant contractual commitments or risks should be escalated where appropriate.

Monitoring

Educationwise will review social value activity in proportion to the commitments being made.

This may include:

- Reviewing contractual social value measures
- Monitoring learner outcomes
- Reviewing inclusion information
- Reviewing employer and learner feedback
- Reviewing community and partnership activity
- Reviewing staff development
- Reviewing significant environmental actions
- Checking evidence used within tenders or external reporting

Where a gap is identified, an appropriate action may be agreed.

Related policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Learner Support Policy

- Information, Advice and Guidance Policy
- Safeguarding and Prevent Policy
- Ethics and Anti-Bribery Policy
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy
- Counter Fraud and Error Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Public Interest Disclosure Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Security Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Relevant procurement and contracting procedures

Monitoring and review

Educationwise will review its social value activity annually to ensure commitments remain relevant, realistic and appropriately monitored.

The annual review may consider:

- Contractual social value commitments
- Learner and employer outcomes
- Inclusion and participation information
- Community and partnership activity
- Staff development
- Environmental actions
- Relevant changes to public procurement requirements
- Evidence used within tenders or external reporting

This policy will be fully reviewed every two years, or sooner where there is a significant change to legislation, procurement requirements, contractual commitments or organisational priorities.