



Department  
for Education

# **Alternative provision academy and free school: supplemental funding agreement**

**March 2018**

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## **SUMMARY SHEET**

### **Information about the Academy:**

<b>Name of Academy Trust</b>	The Mercian Trust
<b>Company number</b>	07611347
<b>Date of Master Funding Agreement</b>	18 December 2018
<b>Name of academy</b>	The Ladder School
<b>Opening date</b>	2 January 2019
<b>Type of academy (indicate whether academy or free school)</b>	Free School
<b>Name of predecessor school (where applicable)</b>	N/A
<b>Capacity number</b>	112
<b>Age range</b>	13-18
<b>Number of sixth form places</b>	32
<b>Number of boarding places</b>	N/A
<b>SEN unit / Resource provision</b>	N/A
<b>Land arrangements (Version 1-8 or other)</b>	Version 2 (Temporary Land), Version 7 (Permanent Land)
<b>Address and title number of Land</b>	<p>Permanent Land - Shannon's Mill, George Street, Walsall shown edged red on the plan attached to this Agreement. Freehold Title numbers (as at the date of this Agreement) NM19523 WM703545 and WM881704, together with unregistered land.</p> <p>Temporary Land - Millenium House, Lower Hall Lane, Walsall WS1 1RL. Freehold title number WM673308</p>

<b>Name of Academy Trust</b>	The Mercian Trust
	Temporary Temporary from 2 January 2019 to 24 February 2019: Walsall Studio School, 14a Lower Hall Lane, The Goldmine Centre, Walsall, West Midlands WS1 1RL.

**Please confirm which clause variations have been applied or marked as 'Not used'**

<b>Clause No.</b>	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Not used</b>
1.I	Only applies to free schools and new provision academies	x	
2.D, 2.E	Only applies where the academy has an SEN unit		x
2.F	Only applies where there was a predecessor independent school		x
2.I	Clause does not apply to free schools (unless there was a predecessor independent school), or new provision academies		x
2.U	Clause <i>reflects the requirements for religious education and daily collective worship</i>	x	
3.C	Clause only applies to full sponsored and intermediate sponsored academies with approved Academy Action Plans		x
3.D	Clause does not apply to free schools (unless there was a predecessor independent school), or new provision academies		x
5.G.1	Clause applies only to a boarding academy/boarding free school		x
5.I	Clause only applies to sponsored academies		x
5.K	Clause applies to free schools and may be applied to new provision academies	x	

Clause No.	Descriptor	Applied	Not used
5.L	Clause applies to free schools and may be applied to new provision academies	x	
5.M	Clause applies to free schools and may be applied to new provision academies	x	
5.N	Clause applies to free schools and may be applied to new provision academies	x	
5.O	Clause applies to free schools and may be applied to new provision academies	x	

**Please identify any other variations from the model that apply to this academy (e.g. clauses relating to PFI, or any required because the multi academy trust includes academies designated with different religious characters, or a mixture of those designated with a religious character, and those which are not):**

**These clauses will be supplied by your project lead if needed.**

Descriptor	Clause No.	Applied	Not used

## 1. **ESTABLISHING THE ACADEMY**

1.A This Agreement made between the Secretary of State for Education and THE MERCIAN TRUST is supplemental to the master funding agreement made between the same parties and dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 (the “**Master Agreement**”).

### **Definitions and interpretation**

1.B Except as expressly provided in this Agreement words and expressions defined in the Master Agreement will have those same meanings in this Agreement.

1.C The following capitalised words and expressions will have the following meanings:

“The **Academy**” means THE LADDER SCHOOL.

“**the Academy**” means the Alternative Provision Academy which is an Academy or a Free School which meets the requirements set out in section 1C(1) of the Academies Act 2010 .

“**Commissioner**” means local authorities and/or schools referring children/pupils to the Alternative Provision Academy for admission under the legal powers set out in clauses 2.G to clauses 2.M.

“**Coasting**” has the meaning given by regulations under subsection (3) of section 60B of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 in relation to a school to which that section applies.

“**Prospective Pupils**” means those pupils who have been referred to the Academy and accepted a place.

“**Pupil Premium**” means the amount allocated by a local authority from the pupil premium grant to a school under the terms and conditions of the grant;

**“Pupil Premium Grant”** means a grant of that name paid to a local authority by the Secretary of State under section 14 of the 2002 Act in respect of pupils who are entitled to a pupil premium;

**“Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)”** means an Academy or Free School which meets the requirements set out in Section 19(2) of the Education Act 1996.

**“SEN”** means Special Educational Needs and the expressions **“special educational needs”** and **“special educational provision”** have the meaning set out in sections 20(1) and 21(2) of the Children and Families Act 2014.

**“Start-Up Period”** means up to 3 Academy Financial Years from/after the date of this agreement and covers the period up to and including the first Academy Financial Year in which the Academy can offer its planned places (as set down in clause 2.B) whichever is the shorter

**“Termination Notice”** means a notice sent by the Secretary of State to the Academy Trust, terminating this Agreement on the date specified in the notice.

**“Termination Warning Notice”** means a notice sent by the Secretary of State to the Academy Trust, stating his intention to terminate this Agreement.

1.D The Interpretation Act 1978 applies to this Agreement as it applies to an Act of Parliament.

1.E Reference in this Agreement to clauses and annexes will, unless otherwise stated, be to clauses and annexes to this Agreement.

### **The Academy**

1.F The Academy is an Alternative Provision as defined in clause 1.4 of the Master Agreement.

1.G The Academy Trust will establish and maintain the Academy in accordance with the Master Agreement and this Agreement.

1.H The Academy Trust will open the Academy on 2 January 2019.



- 1.I The Academy Trust must ensure that so far as is reasonably practicable and consistent with clause 2.U of this Agreement and the Equality Act 2010, the policies and practices adopted by the Academy (in particular regarding curriculum, uniform and school food) enable pupils of all faiths and none to play a full part in the life of the Academy, and do not disadvantage pupils or parents of any faith or none. For the avoidance of doubt, this requirement applies irrespective of the proportion of pupils of any faiths or none currently attending or predicted to join the school.
- 1.J Further to clause 1.13(b) of the Master Agreement the Academy Trust must ensure that the educational provision is made at the Academy for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless alternative provision is made for them.

## **2. RUNNING OF THE ACADEMY**

### **Teachers and staff**

- 2.A Subject to clause 2.A.1 and 7.A of this Agreement (if used), the Academy Trust may, in accordance with any relevant Guidance, employ anyone it believes is suitably qualified or is otherwise eligible to plan and prepare lessons and courses for pupils, teach pupils, and assess and report on pupils' development, progress and attainment.
- 2.A.1 The Academy Trust must designate a staff member at the Academy as responsible for promoting the educational achievement of registered pupils at the Academy who are being looked after by an LA, or are no longer looked after by an LA because of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order, or because they have been adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales, and in doing so must comply with the law, regulations and guidance that apply to maintained schools. The Academy Trust must ensure the designated person undertakes appropriate training and has regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

## **Pupils**

**2.B** The planned number of places at the Academy is 112 places in the age range 13-18, [including a sixth form of 32 places] . The planned number of places and the age ranges is/are not determinative of GAG. GAG for each Academy Financial Year will be determined by the Secretary of State in accordance with clauses 3.12 and 3.15 of the Master Agreement.

**2.C** Where the Company considers that there is a need to increase the overall planned number of places stated in clause 2.B, the Company must seek the approval of the Secretary of State and the requirements of this Agreement may be amended accordingly by agreement between the Secretary of State and the Company.

**2.D Not Used**

**2.E Not Used**

**2.F Not Used**

## **Admissions**

**2.G** The Academy Trust will act in accordance with equalities law

**2.H** Except where clauses 2.I, 2.J, 7.A and 8.A apply, the Academy Trust may not admit a child of compulsory school age unless it is by way of a referral from a Commissioner through one of the referral routes set out in Clause 2.J

**2.I Not Used**

**2.J** The Secretary of State may:

- a) direct the Academy Trust to admit a named pupil to the Academy:
  - i. following an application from an LA including complying with a school attendance order as defined in section 437 of the

Education Act 1996. Before doing so the Secretary of State will consult the Academy Trust; or

- ii. where in relation to a specific child or children the Academy Trust has failed to act in accordance with the Codes or this Agreement or has otherwise acted unlawfully; or
  - b) direct the Academy Trust to amend its admission arrangements where they no longer meet the requirements at 1C of the Academies Act, do not comply with this Agreement, or are otherwise unlawful.
- 2.K The Academy Trust may only admit a child of compulsory school age:
- a) referred by a local authority where the local authority has a duty to that child under section 19 of the Education Act 1996.
  - b) referred by a maintained school or Academy where the maintained school or Academy has a duty under Section 100 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
  - c) referred by a maintained school under powers set out in section 29(A) of the Education Act 2002.
  - d) referred by an Academy under general powers in the Articles of the Academy Trust for the purpose of improving the child's behaviour.
- 2.L The Academy Trust shall have a referral policy, the initial policy to be agreed with the Department. Any referral policy will include the number of places to be provided, the age range of pupils, the oversubscription criteria, and a fair, transparent and objective process for considering whether the education provided will be appropriate for prospective pupils. The Academy Trust will consult on any changes to its referral policy with key stakeholders including the local authority, local schools, any other school or local authority which has previously commissioned places and any other relevant parties.
- 2.M Any changes to admission arrangements proposed by the Academy Trust should be discussed with Commissioners and must be agreed with the Secretary of State.

## **Pupil registration and information sharing**

- 2.N The Academy Trust must ensure that pupils attending the Academy are appropriately registered, in line with its legal duties and those of any other school that the pupil attends.
- 2.O As far as reasonably practicable, in agreeing contractual arrangements with Commissioners the Academy Trust shall request appropriate information on the needs and prior attainment of pupils who will attend the Academy.
- 2.P The Academy Trust will provide regular feedback to Commissioners (and in any event when requested by the Commissioner to do so) on progress made by the pupil, the pupil's needs and attainment.

## **Objections and determinations**

- 2.Q The Academy Trust must make clear when determining the Academy's admission arrangements, that objections should be submitted to the ESFA or any successor to it.
- 2.R A determination of an objection, by the ESFA or any successor to it on behalf of the Secretary of State, or by the Secretary of State, will be binding upon the Academy.

## **Curriculum**

- 2.S The Academy Trust may provide for the teaching of religious education and a daily act of collective worship at the Academy.
- 2.T The Academy Trust must comply with section 71(1)-(6) and (8) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as if the Academy were a community, foundation or voluntary school, and as if references to "religious education" and "religious worship" in that section were references to the religious education and religious worship provided by the Academy in accordance with clause 2.U.

- 2.U At its discretion in accordance with clause 2.T, where the Academy Trust has made provision for the teaching of religious and/or for a daily act of collective worship (in accordance with section 124B of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 or further to section 6(8) of the Academies Act 2010):
- a) provision must be made for religious education to be given to all pupils at the Academy in accordance with the requirements for agreed syllabuses in section 375(3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph 2(5) of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998;
  - b) the Academy must comply with section 70(1) of and Schedule 20 to, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as if it were a community, foundation or voluntary school which does not have a religious character, except that paragraph 4 of that Schedule does not apply. The Academy may apply to the Secretary of State for consent to be relieved of the requirement imposed by paragraph 3(2) of that Schedule.
- 2.V The Academy Trust must have regard to any Guidance, further to section 403 of the Education Act 1996, on sex and relationship education to ensure that children at the Academy are protected from inappropriate teaching materials and that they learn the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and for bringing up children. The Academy Trust must also have regard to the requirements in section 405 of the Education Act 1996, as if the Academy were a maintained school.
- 2.W The Academy Trust must prevent political indoctrination, and secure the balanced treatment of political issues, in line with the requirements for maintained schools set out in the Education Act 1996, and have regard to any Guidance.

### **3. GRANT FUNDING**

#### **General Annual Grant (GAG)**

**3.A GAG for each Academy Financial Year for the Academy will include:**

- a) funding equivalent to that which would be received by a PRU maintained by the local authority with similar characteristics, determined by the Secretary of State and taking account of the number of pupils and/or places at the Academy;
- b) funding to cover necessary functions which would be carried out by the relevant LA if the Academy were a school maintained by a local authority;
- c) payments in respect of further, specific grants made available to schools maintained by the local authority, where the Academy meets the requisite conditions and criteria necessary for a school maintained by the local authority to receive these grants.
- d) funding for matters for which it is necessary for the Academy to incur extra costs, for as long as those costs are deemed necessary by the Secretary of State; and
- e) The Secretary of State may make provision, within his absolute discretion, for GAG to be adjusted in-year if the number of pupils attending the Academy at specified dates exceeds or falls below thresholds specified by letter. Arrangements for this will be set out in the Annual Letter of Funding or its equivalent.

**Calculation of GAG**

**3.B** The Secretary of State recognises that if he serves a Termination Notice or a Termination Warning Notice, or otherwise terminates the Master Agreement, the intake of new pupils during the notice period may decline. In these circumstances the Secretary of State may pay a larger GAG in the notice period, to enable the Academy to operate effectively.

**Other relevant funding**

**3.C Not Used**

**3.D Not Used**

**Carrying forward of funds**

3.E Any additional grant made in accordance with clause 3.B, for a period after the Secretary of State has served a Termination Notice or a Termination Warning Notice under this Agreement, or otherwise terminates the Master Agreement, may be carried forward without limitation or deduction until the circumstances set out in clause 3.B cease to apply or the Academy closes.

**4. LAND**

**"Landlord"** means either/or the Permanent Landlord and the Temporary Landlord.

**"Permanent Land"** means the land at Shannon's Mill, George Street, Walsall shown edged red on the plan annexed to this Agreement being the whole of the land registered (as at the date of this Agreement) under freehold title number NM19523 and part of the land registered with freehold title numbers WM703545 and WM881704, together with unregistered land, as is to be demised by the Permanent Lease.

**"Permanent Lease"** means the lease, any subsequent variations to the lease or other occupational agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (the **"Permanent Landlord"**) under which the Academy Trust derives title to the Permanent Land.

**"Property Notice"** means any order, notice, proposal, demand or other requirement issued by any competent authority (including the Landlord unless the Landlord is the Secretary of State for Education) which materially affects the Academy Trust's ability to use the Permanent Land or the Temporary Land for the purposes of the Academy.

**"Temporary Land"** means the land at Millenium House, Lower Hall Lane, Walsall WS1 1RL being the land registered with freehold title number WM673308 as is demised to the Academy Trust by the Temporary Lease.

**"Temporary Lease"** means the lease or other occupational agreement between the Academy Trust and a third party (the **"Temporary Landlord"**) under which the Academy Trust derives title to the Temporary Land.

### **Restrictions on Permanent Land transfer**

4.A The Academy Trust must:

- a) within 28 days of the signing of this Agreement in circumstances where the Permanent Land is demised to the Academy Trust prior to the date of this Agreement, or otherwise within 28 days of the demise of the Permanent Land to the Academy Trust, apply to the Land Registry using Form RX1 for the following restriction (the **"Restriction"**) to be entered in the proprietorship register for the Permanent Lease:

*No disposition of the registered estate by the proprietor of the registered estate, or by the proprietor of any registered charge, not being a charge registered before the entry of this restriction, is to be registered without a written consent signed by the Secretary of State for Education of Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT;*

- b) take any further steps required to ensure that the Restriction is entered on the proprietorship register of the Academy Trust's title;
- c) promptly confirm to the Secretary of State when the Restriction has been registered;
- d) if it has not registered the Restriction, allow the Secretary of State to do so in its place; and
- e) not, without the Secretary of State's consent, apply to disapply, modify, cancel or remove the Restriction, whether by itself, a holding company, a subsidiary company, or a receiver, administrator or liquidator acting in the name of the Academy Trust.

### **Obligations of the Academy Trust**



- 4.B The Academy Trust must comply with the Permanent Lease.**
- 4.C The Academy Trust must comply with the Temporary Lease and promptly enforce its rights against the Temporary Landlord**
- 4.D The Academy Trust must not, without the Secretary of State's consent:**
- a) terminate, renew, vary, surrender, dispose of or agree and revised rent under the Temporary Lease;**
  - b) grant any consent or licence; or**
  - c) create or allow any encumbrance including charging the land; or**
  - d) part with or share possession or occupation; or**
  - e) enter into any onerous or restrictive obligations**

**in respect of all or part of the Temporary Land and/or the Permanent Land  
Provided that that the Academy Trust may grant a licence or share occupation of part of the Permanent Land with a proprietor or proposed proprietor of an Academy or a body or individual providing services or facilities which are within the uses permitted by the Permanent Lease and where no relationship of landlord and tenant arises as a result of such occupation.**

- 4.E The Academy Trust must obtain the Secretary of State's consent before taking any action, including the service of any notice or waiver of any condition, under any contract relating to the acquisition of the Permanent Land or the Temporary Land.**
- 4.G If the Academy Trust is, or if it is reasonably foreseeable that it will be, in material breach of the Permanent Lease or the Temporary Lease, the Academy Trust must immediately give written notice to the Secretary of State stating what the breach is and what action the Academy Trust has taken or proposes to take to remedy it, including timescales where appropriate.**
- 4.H After notifying the Secretary of State under clause 4.G, the Academy Trust must:**

- a) promptly give the Secretary of State all the information he asks for about the breach;
- b) allow the Secretary of State to take all necessary action, with or instead of the Academy Trust, to remedy or prevent the breach, and
- c) use its best endeavours to help the Secretary of State to remedy or prevent the breach.

4.I If the Academy Trust has not entered into the Permanent Lease by 1 March 2021 the Secretary of State may serve a Termination Notice.

### **Property Notices**

4.J If the Academy Trust receives a Property Notice , it must:

- a) send a copy of it (where not issued by the Permanent Landlord) to the Secretary of State within 14 days, stating how the Academy Trust intends to respond to it;
- b) promptly give the Secretary of State all the information he asks for about it;
- c) allow the Secretary of State to take all necessary action, with or instead of the Academy Trust, to comply with it, and
- d) use its best endeavours to help the Secretary of State in connection with it.

### **Option**

4.K The Academy Trust grants and the Secretary of State accepts an option (the “**Option**”) to acquire all the Temporary Land at nil consideration. The Secretary of State may exercise the Option in writing on termination of this Agreement. If the Option is exercised, completion will take place 28 days after the exercise date in accordance with the Law Society’s Standard Conditions of Sale for Commercial Property in force at that date.

### **Sharing the Permanent Land**

4.L If:

- a) the Academy does not reach its planned capacity, as stated in clause 2.B, by 1 September 2022; or
- b) the Academy Trust or the Secretary of State serves notice to terminate this Agreement under clause 5.A; or
- c) the Secretary of State considers, having consulted with the Academy, that not all the Permanent Land is needed for the operation of the Academy at planned capacity,

the Academy Trust must share occupation of the Permanent Land with such other Academy as the Secretary of State considers appropriate and enter into any legal arrangements which the Secretary of State requires for this purpose subject to the terms of the Permanent Lease Provided that any associated reasonable costs directly arising from the legal arrangements will be payable by the Secretary of State.

4.M In the event of any inconsistency between the provisions of this Agreement and the Permanent Lease, the provisions of this Agreement will prevail and, for the avoidance of doubt, nothing in the Permanent Lease precludes any requirement for the Academy Trust to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State for any matters or dealings relating to the Permanent Land.

## **5. TERMINATION**

### **Termination by either party**

5.A Either party may give at least seven Academy Financial Years' notice to terminate this Agreement. Such termination would take effect on 31 August of the relevant year.

## **Termination Warning Notice**

**5.B** The Secretary of State may serve a Termination Warning Notice where he considers that:

- a) the Academy Trust has breached the provisions of this Agreement or the Master Agreement; or
- b) the standards of performance of pupils at the Academy are unacceptably low; or
- c) there has been a serious breakdown in the way the Academy is managed or governed; or
- d) the safety of pupils or staff is threatened, including due to breakdown of discipline.
- e) the Academy is coasting provided he has notified the Academy Trust that it is coasting.

**5.C** A Termination Warning Notice served under clause 5.B will specify:

- a) the action the Academy Trust must take;
- b) the date by which the action must be completed; and
- c) the date by which the Academy Trust must make any representations, or confirm that it agrees to undertake the specified action.

**5.D** The Secretary of State will consider any representations from the Academy Trust which he receives by the date specified in the Termination Warning Notice. The Secretary of State may amend the Termination Warning Notice to specify further action which the Academy Trust must take, and the date by which it must be completed.

**5.E** If the Secretary of State considers that the Academy Trust has not responded to the Termination Warning Notice as specified under clause 5.C(c), or has not completed the action required in the Termination Warning Notice as

specified under clauses 5.C(a) and (b) (and any further action specified under clause 5.D) he may serve a Termination Notice.

### **Termination by the Secretary of State after inspection**

5.F If the Chief Inspector gives notice to the Academy Trust that:

- a) special measures are required to be taken in relation to the Academy;  
or
- b) the Academy requires significant improvement

the Secretary of State may serve a Termination Warning Notice, specifying the date by which the Academy Trust must make any representations.

5.G In deciding whether to give notice of his intention to terminate under clause 5.F, the Secretary of State will have due regard to the overall performance of the Academy Trust.

#### **5.G.1 Not Used**

5.H If the Secretary of State has served a Termination Warning Notice under clause 5.F and:

- a) has not received any representations from the Academy Trust by the date specified in the notice; or
- b) having considered the representations made by the Academy Trust remains satisfied that this Agreement should be terminated;

he may serve a Termination Notice.

#### **5.I Not Used**

### **Termination by the Secretary of State**

5.J If the Secretary of State has determined that the Academy will be removed from the Register of Independent Schools and no appeal against that determination is pending, he may serve a Termination Notice.

- 5.K** If at any time before the Academy opens, the total number of prospective pupils who have accepted offers of places to attend the Academy in January 2019 is less than 40, the Secretary of State may:
- a)** require the Academy Trust not to open the Academy until the number of prospective pupils has reached 40; or
  - b)** serve a Termination Notice.
- 5.L** If at any time after the Academy has opened, the Secretary of State considers that the Academy is not financially viable because of low pupil numbers, then he may:
- a)** serve a Termination Warning Notice; or
  - b)** serve a Termination Notice.
- 5.M** If both parties agree that the Academy is not financially viable because of low pupil numbers, they may jointly terminate this Agreement after agreeing the precise terms of termination.
- 5.N** If full planning permission (including where relevant listed building consent) in respect of the Permanent Land has not been obtained by 2 January 2019, the Secretary of State may serve a Termination Notice.
- 5.O** If at any time before the Academy opening date, the Secretary of State considers that:
- a)** the Academy would, on opening, provide an unacceptably low standard of education; or
  - b)** the safety of pupils or staff at the Academy would, on opening, be threatened; or
  - c)** the staff employed at the Academy are unsuitable; or
  - d)** there is a serious breakdown in the way the Academy Trust is being managed or governed; or

- e) the buildings and other structures on the Permanent Land or the Temporary Land are unsuitable or the Academy Trust has not obtained Building Regulations approval,

he may either:

- A. require the Academy Trust:
  - i. not to open the Academy; or
  - ii. not to admit pupils of a particular age range, to be determined by the Secretary of State; or
  - iii. not to use any building or other structure on the Permanent Land or the Temporary Land,

until each relevant matter in paragraphs (a) to (e) above has been resolved to the Secretary of State's satisfaction; or

- B. serve a Termination Notice.

#### **Funding and admission during notice period**

5.P If the Secretary of State serves a Termination Notice under clause 5.A, the Academy Trust may continue during the notice period to admit pupils to the Academy, and to receive GAG and EAG, in accordance with this Agreement.

5.Q If the Secretary of State serves a Termination Warning Notice or a Termination Notice otherwise than under clause 5.A, the Academy Trust may continue during the notice period to admit pupils to the Academy (unless the Secretary of State specifies otherwise), and to receive GAG and EAG, in accordance with this Agreement.

#### **Notice of intention to terminate by Academy Trust**

5.R The Secretary of State will, before the start of each Academy Financial Year, provide the Academy Trust with a final funding allocation indicating the level of GAG and EAG to be provided in the next Academy Financial Year (the "Funding Allocation").

5.S If the Academy Trust is of the opinion that, after receipt of the Funding Allocation for the next Academy Financial Year (the “**Critical Year**”) and after taking into account all other resources likely to be available to the Academy, including other funds that are likely to be available to the Academy from other academies operated by the Academy Trust (“**All Other Resources**”), it is likely that the cost of running the Academy during the Critical Year would cause the Academy Trust to become insolvent (and for this reason only) then the Academy Trust may give written notice of its intention to terminate this Agreement on 31 August before the Critical Year.

5.T Any notice given by the Academy Trust under clause 5.S must be provided to the Secretary of State within six weeks of the Secretary of State issuing the Funding Allocation. The notice given by the Academy Trust under clause 5.S must specify:

- a) the grounds upon which the Academy Trust’s opinion is based, including:
  - i. evidence of those grounds;
  - ii. any professional accounting advice the Academy Trust has received;
  - iii. a detailed statement of steps which the Academy Trust proposes to take to ensure that the running costs of the Academy are reduced such that costs are less than the Funding Allocation and All Other Resources, and the period of time within which such steps will be taken; and
- b) the shortfall in the Critical Year between the Funding Allocation and All Other Resources expected to be available to the Academy Trust to run the Academy and the projected expenditure on the Academy; and
- c) a detailed budget of income and expenditure for the Academy during the Critical Year (the “**Projected Budget**”).



- 5.U Both parties will use their best endeavours to agree whether or not the cost of running the Academy during the Critical Year would cause the Academy Trust to become insolvent. Both parties recognise that they will need to engage in a constructive dialogue at the time about how best to provide education for the pupils at the Academy and use their best endeavours to agree a practical solution to the problem.
- 5.V If no agreement is reached by 30 April (or another date if agreed between the parties) as to whether the cost of running the Academy during the Critical Year would cause the Academy Trust to become insolvent, then that question will be referred to an independent expert (the “**Expert**”) for resolution. The Expert’s determination will be final and binding on both parties. The Expert will be requested to specify in his determination the amount of the shortfall in funding (the “**Shortfall**”).
- 5.W The Expert will be an insolvency practitioner with significant professional experience of educational institutions or academies. If the parties fail to agree upon the appointment of the Expert then the Expert will be appointed by the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. The Expert’s fees will be borne equally between the parties.
- 5.X The Expert will be required in reaching his determination to take account of advice from an educational specialist who is professionally familiar with the issues arising from the budget management of schools. If the parties fail to agree upon the appointment of the educational specialist then the educational specialist will be appointed by the Chairman of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (or any successor or equivalent body). The educational specialist’s fees will be borne equally between the parties.
- 5.Y If the Expert determines that the cost of running the Academy during the Critical Year would cause the Academy Trust to become insolvent, and the Secretary of State will not have agreed to provide sufficient additional funding to cover the Shortfall, then the Academy Trust will be entitled to terminate this Agreement, by notice expiring on 31 August before the Critical Year. Any such notice will be given within 21 days after (a) the Expert’s determination

will have been given to the parties or (b), if later, the Secretary of State will have given written notice of his refusal to provide sufficient additional funding for the Academy to cover the Shortfall.

### **Effect of termination**

- 5.Z If this Agreement is terminated, the Academy will cease to be an Academy within the meaning of sections 1 and 1C of the Academies Act 2010.
- 5.AA Subject to clauses 5.BB and 5.CC, if the Secretary of State terminates this Agreement under clause 5.A, he will indemnify the Academy Trust. If the Secretary of State terminates this Agreement otherwise than under clause 5.A, he may at his discretion indemnify or compensate the Academy Trust.
- 5.BB The amount of any such indemnity or compensation will be determined by the Secretary of State, having regard to representations made to him by the Academy Trust, and will be paid as and when the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- 5.CC The categories of expenditure incurred by the Academy Trust in consequence of termination, for which the Secretary of State may indemnify the Academy Trust under clause 5.AA, may include:
- a) staff compensation and redundancy payments;
  - b) compensation payments in respect of broken contracts;
  - c) expenses of disposing of assets or adapting them for other purposes;
  - d) legal and other professional fees; and
  - e) dissolution expenses.
- 5.DD If this Agreement is terminated, and the Academy Trust owns capital assets which have been partly or wholly funded by HM Government, the Academy Trust must, as soon as possible after the termination date:

- a) transfer a proportion of those capital assets, equal to the proportion of the original financial contribution made by HM Government, to a nominee of the Secretary of State to use for educational purposes; or
- b) if the Secretary of State directs that a transfer under clause 5.DD(a) is not required, pay to the Secretary of State at the termination date (or, by agreement with the Secretary of State, at the date of their subsequent disposal) a sum equivalent to the proportion of the original financial contribution made by HM Government.

5.EE The Secretary of State may:

- a) waive all or part of the repayment due under sub-clause 5.DD(b) if the Academy Trust obtains his permission to invest the sale proceeds for its charitable purposes; or
- b) direct the Academy Trust to pay all or part of the sale proceeds to the relevant LA.

## **6. OTHER CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS**

### **Annexes**

6.A Any annexes to this Agreement form part of and are incorporated into this Agreement.

### **The Master Agreement**

6.B Except as expressly provided in this Agreement, all provisions of the Master Agreement have full force and effect.

### **General**

6.C The Academy Trust cannot assign this Agreement.

6.D Failure to exercise, or a delay in exercising, any right or remedy of the Secretary of State under this Agreement (including the right to terminate this Agreement), or a single or partial exercise of such a right or remedy, is not a

waiver of, and does not prevent or restrict any initial or further exercise of, that or any other right or remedy.

- 6.E Termination of this Agreement will not affect the accrued rights, remedies, obligations or liabilities of the parties existing at termination.
- 6.F This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when executed and delivered shall constitute a duplicate original, but all of which will together constitute the same agreement.
- 6.G This Agreement and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England and Wales, and submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

This Agreement was executed as a Deed on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 [DATE]

Executed on behalf of the Academy Trust by:

*[Signature]*.....

Director  
JANE BONNER

and

*[Signature]*  
.....

Director P.J. STURROCK

.....

or

*[Signature]*.....

Witness

Name: DAVID H. MILNE  
SOLICITOR (NON-PRACTISING)

Address: 22 BRANTON HILL LANE,  
ALDRIDGE,  
WARREN; W59 0NR

The Corporate Seal of  
**THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION**  
affixed to this deed is authenticated by:



*[Signature]*  
.....

Duly Authorised

## **ANNEXES**

### **7. ADMISSION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS**

“EHC plan” means an Education, Health and Care plan made under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

7.A Except as set out in clause 8 below, the Children and Families Act 2014 imposes duties directly on Academies in respect of pupils with special educational needs, including the admission of pupils with EHC plans. If an Academy Trust considers that a LA should not have named the Academy in an EHC plan, it may ask the Secretary of State to determine whether the LA has acted unreasonably, and to make an order directing the LA to reconsider. The Academy Trust must admit the pupil if such a determination is pending. The Secretary of State’s determination as to whether the LA acted unreasonably will be final, subject to any right of appeal which a parent of the pupil may have to the First Tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) or the Upper Tribunal Administrative Appeals Chamber.

### **8. ADMISSION OF CHILDREN WITH A STATEMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

(Clauses 8.A-8.G only apply where the pupil has a statement of special educational needs (SEN) rather than an EHC plan and where they therefore continue to be subject to the relevant provisions of the Education Act 1996. EHC plans are replacing statements of SEN but although all statements of SEN should have been converted to an EHC plan by the 1 April 2018 this clause is retained to protect pupils who still have a statement of special education need after this date. The detail on the drafting of a statement below is retained to protect pupils in exceptional circumstances.)

“Statement of SEN” means a statement made under section 324 of the Education Act 1996.

- 8.A** The Academy Trust must admit all children with a Statement of SEN naming the Academy.
- 8.B** The Academy Trust must have regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of practice 2001 when dealing with statements of SEN.
- 8.C** Where the LA sends the Academy Trust a draft statement with a proposal that the Academy is named in the final statement, the Academy Trust must respond within 15 working days unless the time period falls within a school holiday that is longer than two weeks in which case the Academy Trust should respond within 15 working days of the end of the school holiday.
- 8.D** In its response the Academy Trust must either:
- a. consent to being named in the final statement or
  - b. explain why it believes that admitting the child would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education for other children and the efficient use of resources, including why no reasonable steps could secure compatibility. In doing so the Academy Trust must have regard to the relevant legislation and Code of Practice. If the LA does not agree with the Academy Trust's response, and names the Academy in the child's Statement of SEN, the Academy Trust must admit the child to the school as specified in the statement or otherwise by the LA. The final decision as to whether to name the Academy falls to the LA.
- 8.E** If the Academy Trust considers that the LA should not have named the Academy in the statement of SEN, it may ask the Secretary of State to determine whether the LA has acted unreasonably, and to make an order directing the LA to reconsider. The Academy Trust must admit the pupil if such a determination is pending. The Secretary of State's determination will be final, subject only to any right of appeal which a parent of the child may have to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) or the Upper Tribunal Administrative Appeals Chamber.
- 8.F** If a parent of a child for whom the LA maintains a statement appeals to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) or the Upper







Department  
for Education

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