

DEED OF VARIATION TO THE FUNDING AGREEMENT

THIS DEED is made the day of 31 August 2022

BETWEEN

- 1) The Secretary of State for Education (the “**Secretary of State**”); and
- 2) The **Aston Community Education Trust** (the “**Company**”) [a charitable company incorporated in England and Wales with registered number [07577113], together, the “**Parties**”.

INTRODUCTION

- A. The Parties entered into a funding agreement dated on or about 1st May 2011 (the “**Funding Agreement**”) relating to the establishment, maintenance and funding of Aston Academy in accordance with the Funding Agreement.
- B. The Parties now wish to vary and amend certain terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement in accordance with the terms of this Deed.
- C. This Deed is supplemental to the Funding Agreement.

1. INTERPRETATION

1. 1 Words, expressions and interpretations used in this Deed shall, unless the context expressly requires otherwise, have the meaning given to them in, and shall be interpreted in accordance with, the Funding Agreement.

2. VARIATION OF THE FUNDING AGREEMENT

- 2.1 The Parties agree that with effect from the date of this Deed the Funding Agreement shall be amended as follows:

In clause 17, within the ‘Conditions of Grant’ section, remove 1650 and replace with 1800.

- 2.2 Except as varied by this Deed, the Funding Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

3. Governing law and jurisdiction


- 3.1 This Deed, and any disputes or claims arising out of or in connection with it, its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims), shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law.
- 3.2 The parties irrevocably agree that the English courts have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute or claim that arises out of or in connection with this Deed or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims).

4. Counterparts

- 4.1 This Deed may be executed in any number of counterparts and by the parties to it on separate counterparts, each of which when so executed and delivered shall be an original, but all the counterparts shall together constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS whereof this Deed has been executed by the parties hereto and is intended to be and is hereby delivered on the date first above written.

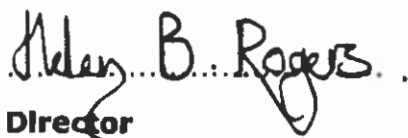
EXECUTED as a deed by affixing the corporate seal of the **Secretary of State for Education** authenticated by:-)
)
)

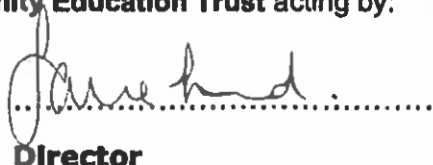


Duly authorised by the Secretary of State for Education



EXECUTED as a deed by **Aston Community Education Trust** acting by:


Director


Director



OR

EXECUTED as a deed by **Aston Community Education Trust**

.....

Director

In the presence of:

W	Sign	
I	Name	<u>Rebecca Scott</u>
T	Address	
N	Occupation	Ceo
E		
S		
S		

SCHEDULE 1
MODEL SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made

2012

BETWEEN

(1) **THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION**; and

(2) **ASTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION TRUST**

IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE MASTER FUNDING AGREEMENT made between the same parties and dated 1 May 2011 and varied in an agreement date [] 2012 (the “**Master Agreement**”).

1 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 Except as expressly provided in this Agreement words and expressions defined in the Master Agreement shall have the same meanings in this Agreement as were ascribed to them in the Master Agreement.

1.2 The following words and expressions shall have the following meanings:

“the Academy” means Aston Academy established at Augton Road, Swallownest, Sheffield, S26 4SF;

“Chief Inspector” means Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills or his successor;

“Insured Risks” means fire lightning explosion earthquake storm tempest flood subsidence landslip heave impact terrorism bursting or overflowing of water tanks and pipes earthquake damage by aircraft and other aerial devices or articles dropped there from riot and civil commotion labour disturbance and malicious damage and such other risks as the Company insures against from time to time subject in all cases to any exclusions or limitations as may from time to time be imposed by the insurers or underwriters;

“the Land” means the publicly funded land (including for the avoidance of doubt all buildings, structures landscaping and other erections) situated at and known

as [Aston Academy , Aughton Road, Swallownest, Sheffield, S26 4SF being part of the land registered under SYK524691].

- 1.3 Reference in this Agreement to clauses and Annexes shall, unless otherwise stated, be to clauses and annexes of this Agreement.

2 THE ACADEMY

- 2.1 The Company will establish and maintain, and carry on or provide for the carrying on of the Academy in accordance with the Master Agreement and this Agreement.
- 2.2 The curriculum provided by the Academy to pupils up to the age of 16 shall be broad and balanced,
- 2.3 The requirements for the admission of pupils to the Academy are set out at Annex 1.

ACADEMY OPENING DATE

- 2.4 The Academy opened as a school on 1 May 2011 replacing Aston Comprehensive School which shall ceased to be maintained by the Local Authority on that date, which date shall be the conversion date within the meaning of the Academies Act 2010.
- 2.5 The planned capacity of the Academy is 1650 in the age range 11-19, including a sixth form of 256 places.

3 CAPITAL GRANT

- 3.1 Pursuant to clause 38 of the Master Funding Agreement, the Secretary of State may, in his absolute discretion provide Capital Expenditure funding in accordance with any arrangements he considers appropriate.

4 GAG AND EAG

- 4.1 The Secretary of State agrees to pay GAG and EAG to the Company in relation to the Academy in accordance with the Master Agreement.

4A COMPLAINTS

4A.1 Not used

4A.2 Not used

5 **TERMINATION**

5.1 Either party may give not less than seven Academy Financial Years' written notice to terminate this Agreement, such notice to expire on 31 August 2018 or any subsequent anniversary of that date.

5.2 If the Secretary of State is of the opinion that the Academy no longer has the characteristics set out in clause 12 of the Master Agreement or that the conditions and requirements set out in clauses 13–34B of the Master Agreement are not being met, or that the Company is otherwise in material breach of the provisions of this Agreement or the Master Agreement, the Secretary of State may give notice of his provisional intention to terminate this Agreement.

5.3 Any such notice shall be in writing and shall:

5.3.1. state the grounds on which the Secretary of State considers the Academy no longer has the characteristics set out in clause 12 of the Master Agreement or is not meeting the conditions and requirements of clauses 13-34B of the Master Agreement or the Company is otherwise in material breach of the provisions of this Agreement or the Master Agreement;

5.3.2. specify the measures needed to remedy the situation or breach;

5.3.3. specify a reasonable date by which these measures are to be implemented; and

5.3.4. state the form in which the Company is to provide its response and a reasonable date by which it must be provided.

5.4 If no response is received by the date specified in accordance with clause 5.3.4, the Secretary of State may give the Company 12 months, or such lesser period as he considers appropriate in the circumstances, written notice to terminate this Agreement.

- 5.5 If a response is received by the date specified in accordance with clause 5.3.4, the Secretary of State shall consider it, and any representations made by the Company, and shall, within three months of its receipt, indicate that:
- 5.5.1. he is content with the response and/or that the measures which he specified are being implemented; or
 - 5.5.2. he is content, subject to any further measures he reasonably specifies being implemented by a specified date or any evidence he requires that implementation of such measures have been successfully completed; or
 - 5.5.3. he is not satisfied, that he does not believe that he can be reasonably satisfied, and that he will proceed to terminate the Agreement.
- 5.6 In the circumstances of clause 5.5.3 the Secretary of State shall notify the Company why he believes that he cannot be reasonably satisfied and, if so requested by the Company within thirty days from such notification, he shall meet a deputation including representatives from directors of the Company and the Local Governing Body of the Academy to discuss his concerns. If following such meeting he has good reasons for remaining satisfied that the Academy does not and will not have the characteristics set out in clause 12 of the Master Agreement or does not and will not meet the conditions and requirements set out in clauses 13-34B of the Master Agreement or the Company is in material breach of the provisions of this Agreement or the Master Agreement and such breach will not be remedied to his reasonable satisfaction, he shall give the Company twelve months written notice to terminate this Agreement.
- 5.7 If the Secretary of State has cause to serve a notice on the Company under section 165 of the Education Act 2002 and a determination (from which all rights of appeal have been exhausted) has been made that the Academy shall be struck off the Register of Independent Schools, the period of twelve months notice referred to in clause 5.6 may be shortened to a period deemed appropriate by the Secretary of State.
- 5.8 The Secretary of State shall, at a date preceding the start of each Academy Financial Year, provide to the Company an indication of the level of funding to be provided by the Secretary of State to the Company by way of GAG and EAG in the next following Academy Financial Year (the “**Indicative Funding**”). If the

Company is of the opinion that, after receipt of the Indicative Funding for the next following Academy Financial Year (the “**Critical Year**”) and of the taking into account all other resources available and likely to be available to the Academy, including such funds as are set out in clause 73 of the Master Agreement and such other funds as are and likely to be available to the Academy from other academies operated by the Company (“**All Other Resources**”), it is likely that the cost of running the Academy during the Critical Year would cause the Company, on the basis of the Indicative Funding, to become insolvent (and for this reason only) then the Company may give notice of its intention to terminate this Agreement at the end of the then current Academy Financial Year.

- 5.9 Any notice given by the Company under clause 5.8 shall be in writing and shall be served on the Secretary of State not later than 28 February preceding the Critical Year or, if the Secretary of State shall not have given notice of the Indicative Funding to the Company on or before the date specified in clause 5.8 above, within six weeks after the Secretary of State shall have done so. The notice must specify:

5.9.1. the grounds upon which the Company’s opinion is based and include the evidence of those grounds and any professional accounting advice the Company has received and including a detailed statement of steps which the Company proposes to take with a view to ensuring that as soon as reasonably practicable the costs of running the Academy are reduced sufficiently to ensure that such costs are less than the Indicative Funding and All Other Resources and the period of time within which such steps will be taken; and

5.9.2. the shortfall in the Critical Year between the Indicative Funding and All Other Resources expected to be available to the Company to run the Academy and the projected expenditure on the Academy; and

5.9.3. a detailed budget of income and expenditure for the Academy during the Critical Year (the “**Projected Budget**”).

- 5.10 Both parties undertake to use their best endeavours to agree whether or not the cost of running the Academy during the Critical Year would cause the Company, on the basis of the Indicative Funding and All Other Resources, 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 undertake to use their best endeavours to agree a practical solution to the problem.

- 5.11 If no agreement is reached by 30 April (or such other date as may be agreed between the parties) as to whether the cost of running the Academy during the Critical Year on the basis of the Indicative Funding and All Other Resources would cause the Company to become insolvent, then that question shall be referred to an independent expert (the “**Expert**”) for resolution. The Expert’s determination shall be final and binding on both parties. The Expert shall be requested to specify in his determination the amount of the shortfall in funding (the “**Shortfall**”). The Expert shall 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 shall be appointed by the President for the time being of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. The Expert’s fees shall be borne equally between the parties.
- 5.12 The Expert shall 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 large schools. If the parties fail to agree upon the appointment of the educational specialist then the educational specialist shall be appointed by the Chairman for the time being of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. The educational specialist’s fees shall be borne equally between the parties.
- 5.13 If the Expert determines that the cost of running the Academy during the Critical Year would cause the Company, on the basis of the Indicative Funding and All Other Resources, to become insolvent, and the Secretary of State shall not have agreed to provide sufficient additional funding to cover the Shortfall, then the Company shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement, by notice expiring on 31 August prior to the Critical Year. Any such notice shall be given within 21 days after (a) the Expert’s determination shall have been given to the parties or (b), if later, the Secretary of State shall have given written notice of his refusal to provide sufficient additional funding for the Academy to cover the Shortfall.

- 5.14 If the Company shall have given notice to terminate the Agreement under 5.13, the Secretary of State may by notice in writing to the Company require the Company to appoint up to two persons as directors of the Company in accordance with the Articles.
- 5.15 The Secretary of State may at any time by notice in writing terminate this Agreement forthwith if the Academy has ceased (except where such cessation occurs temporarily by reason of an event beyond the reasonable control of the Company) to operate as an Academy within the meaning of Section 1 of the Academies Act 2010.
- 5.16 A “Special Measures Termination Event Occurs” when:
- 5.16.1. the Chief Inspector gives a notice to the Company in accordance with section 13(3) of the Education Act 2005 (the “Special Measures Notice”) stating that in his opinion special measures are required to be taken in relation to the Academy; and
 - 5.16.2. the Chief Inspector carries out a subsequent inspection of the Academy in accordance with the Education Act 2005 and makes a report in accordance with the Education Act 2005 stating that the Academy has made inadequate progress since the date of the Special Measures Notice; and
 - 5.16.3. the Secretary of State shall have requested the Company to deliver within 10 Business Days a written statement (a “Further Action Statement”) of the action the Company proposes to take, and the period within which it proposes to take such action, or, if it does not propose to take any action, the reasons for not doing so; and
 - 5.16.4. the Secretary of State, having considered the Further Action Statement, is not satisfied that any action proposed to be taken by the Company is sufficient in all the circumstances, or, if no Further Action Statement shall have been given to the Secretary of State within the requested timeframe or otherwise.
- 5.17 If a Special Measures Termination Event occurs, the Secretary of State may:
- 5.17.1. by notice in writing to the Company terminate this Agreement forthwith;
or
 - 5.17.2. subject to clause 102 of the Master Agreement, appoint such Further Directors to the Company as he thinks fit in accordance with the Articles

and/or may provide up to 12 months' notice in writing to terminate this Agreement.

- 5.18 In the event that the Secretary of State appoints Further Directors in accordance with clause 5.17.2, the Company must, upon the request of the Secretary of State, procure the resignation of the Directors appointed in accordance with Article 50 of the Articles of Association.

6 EFFECT OF TERMINATION

- 6.1 In the event of termination of this Agreement however occurring, the school shall cease to be an Academy within the meaning of Section 1 of the Academies Act 2010.
- 6.2 Subject to clause 6.3, if the Secretary of State terminates this Agreement for reasons other than that a Special Measure Termination Event occurs, the Academy no longer has the characteristics set out in clause 12 of the Master Agreement, or is no longer meeting the conditions and requirements set out in clauses 13-34B of the Master Agreement or that the Company is otherwise in material breach of the provisions of this Agreement or the Master Agreement, the Secretary of State shall indemnify the Company.
- 6.3 The amount of any such indemnity shall be determined by the Secretary of State having regard to any representations made to him by the Company, and shall be paid at such times and in such manner as the Secretary of State may reasonably think fit.
- 6.4 The categories of expenditure incurred by the Company in consequence of the termination of the Agreement in respect of which the Secretary of State shall indemnify the Company include (but not by way of limitation), staff compensation and redundancy payments, compensation payments in respect of broken contracts, expenses of disposing of assets or adapting them for other purposes, legal and other professional fees, and dissolution expenses.
- 6.5 Subject to clause 6.6, on the termination of this Agreement however occurring, the Company shall in respect of any of its capital assets at the date of termination:
- (a) promptly transfer a proportion of the assets to a person nominated by the Secretary of State, if the Secretary of State considers that all or some of

those assets need to be used for educational purposes by that nominee. The proportion of the assets to be transferred shall be the same as the proportion of the capital contribution made by the Secretary of State to the original value of those assets, whether that contribution was made on the establishment of the Academy or later; or

(b) if the Secretary of State confirms that a transfer under clause 6.5(a) is not required, promptly repay to the Secretary of State a sum equivalent to the percentage of the value of the assets at the date of termination, or, by agreement with the Secretary of State, at the date of subsequent disposal of those assets. Such percentage to be the same as the percentage of the capital contribution made by the Secretary of State to the original value of those assets, whether that contribution was made on the establishment of the Academy or later.

6.6 The Secretary of State may waive in whole or in part the repayment due under clause 6.5(b) if:

a) The Company obtains his permission to invest the proceeds of sale for its charitable objects; or

b) The Secretary of State directs all or part of the repayment to be paid to the L A.

6.7 The sale or disposal by other means of publicly funded land held for the purposes of an Academy is now governed by Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010.

LAND

Restrictions on Land transfer

6A Recognising that they are or will be receiving publicly funded land at nil consideration (which for the purposes of this transaction shall include leases granted at a peppercorn rent) the Company:

a) shall, within 28 days from the transfer to it of the Land, apply to the Land Registry for a restriction in the proprietorship register (under section 43(1)(a) of

the Land Registration Act 2002 in Form RX1 as prescribed by Rule 91 and Schedule 4 of the Land Registration Rules 2003) in the following terms:

No disposition of the registered estate by the proprietor of the registered estate 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) shall take any further steps required to ensure that the restriction referred to in clause 6A(a) is entered on the proprietorship register,
- c) shall provide the Secretary of State with confirmation of the entry of the restriction referred to in clause 6A(a) as soon as practicable after it receives notification from the Land Registry,
- d) in the event that it has not registered the restriction referred to in clause 6A(a), hereby consents to the entering of the restriction referred to in 6A(a) in the register by the Secretary of State (under s. 43(1)(b) of the Land Registration Act 2002),
- e) shall not, without the consent of the Secretary of State, apply to dis-apply, modify or remove (by cancellation or otherwise) a restriction entered in accordance with clause 6A(a) or 6A(d) above, whether by itself, a holding company, a subsidiary company, or a receiver, administrator or liquidator acting in the name of the Company.

Repair and Upkeep

- 6B) The Company shall keep the Land clean and tidy and make good any damage it causes to the Land and / or any deterioration to the condition of the Land that may arise from the date of this Agreement.

Insurance

6C) The Company shall:-

- a) keep the Land insured with a reputable insurance office against loss or damage by the Insured Risks in the sum the Company is advised represents the reinstatement value of the Land from time to time;
- b) pay the premiums for insurance promptly as they become due and maintain in force the policies of insurance on the Land;

- c) following the incidence of damage to or destruction of the Land and subject to receipt of all necessary consents licences permissions and the like apply the proceeds of the policy of the insurance received for those purposes in rebuilding and reinstating the Land (provided that this clause should be satisfied if the Company provides premises not necessarily identical to the Land as the same existing prior to such damage or destruction occurring) as soon as may be reasonably practicable;
- d) produce to the Secretary of State a copy of the insurance policy whenever reasonably requested and the receipt for the last or other evidence of renewal and up to date details of the amount of cover (but no more often than once in any period of 12 months in both cases);
- e) not knowingly do anything whereby any policy of insurance relating to the Land may become void or voidable.
- f) insure against liability in respect of property owners' and third party risks including occupiers liability.

Transfer of Land on Termination of Agreement

- 6D) In recognition by the Company that they are or will be taking a transfer of publicly-funded land for nil consideration (which for the purposes of this transaction shall include leases granted at a peppercorn rent), the Company hereby grants and the Secretary of State hereby accepts an option, exercisable by the Secretary of State or his nominee, to transfer the said land pursuant to Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010. The option hereby granted shall be exercisable (by notice in writing by or on behalf of the Secretary of State) on the termination of this Funding Agreement for whatever cause. On the exercise of this option, the Law Society's Standard Conditions of Sale for Commercial Property in force at the date of such exercise shall apply to the transaction and completion shall take place 28 days after such exercise.
- 6E) In further recognition by the Company that they are or will be taking a transfer of publicly-funded land for nil consideration, (which for the purposes of this transaction shall include leases granted at a peppercorn rent), to protect the option granted under clause 6D, the Company:
 - a) shall, within 14 days from the transfer to it of the Land, apply to the Land Registry in Form AN1 as prescribed by Rule 81 of the Land Registration Rules

2003 for a notice to be entered in the register (under section 34(3)(a) of the Land Registration Act 2002) to protect the option granted under clause 6D and including a copy of this Agreement as evidence of that option.

b) shall take any further steps required to ensure that the notice referred to in clause 6E(a) is entered on the proprietorship register,

c) shall provide the Secretary of State with confirmation of the entry of the notice referred to in clause 6E(a) as soon as practicable after it receives notification from the Land Registry,

d) in the event that it has not registered the notice referred to in clause 6E(a), hereby consents to the entering of the notice referred to in 6E(a) in the register by the Secretary of State (by application in Form UN1 under s. 34(3)(b) of the Land Registration Act 2002),

e) shall not, without the consent of the Secretary of State, apply to dis-apply, modify or remove (by cancellation or otherwise) a notice entered in accordance with clause 6E(a) or 6E(d) above, whether by itself, a holding company, a subsidiary company, or a receiver, administrator or liquidator acting in the name of the Company.

f) in the case of previously unregistered land, for the further protection of the option granted in Clause 6D the Company shall within 14 days of the signing of this Agreement make application to register a Class C (iv) land charge in the Land Charges Registry and a Caution against First Registration in the Land Registry and shall provide the Secretary of State with copies of the entries secured thereby within 7 days of completing each registration, respectively. If the Secretary of State is of the view that the Company has failed to perform the registration obligations in this sub-clause he shall be at liberty to make his own applications to secure these registrations.

7 ANNEX

7.1 The Annex to this Agreement forms part of and is incorporated into this Agreement.

8 THE MASTER AGREEMENT

8.1 Except as expressly provided in this Agreement the Master Agreement shall continue in full force and effect.

9 **ENGLISH LAW**

9.1 This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law.

This Agreement was executed as a Deed on 2012

Executed on behalf of Aston Community Education Trust by:

.....
Director

.....
Director/Secretary

The Corporate Seal of the Secretary of State for Education, hereunto affixed is authenticated by:

.....

Duly Authorised

ANNEX TO THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT

Requirements for the Admission for pupils at the
Academy Annex 1