



Department  
for Education

# **Academy and free school: master funding agreement**

**December 2014**

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## SUMMARY SHEET

### Information about the Academy Trust:

<b>Name of Academy Trust</b>	Astrum Multi Academy Trust
<b>Address</b>	Michelmores LLP, Woodwater House, Pynes Hill, Exeter, EX2 5WR
<b>Company Number</b>	10818052
<b>Contact details for the Chair of Charity Trustees</b>	The Company's registered office

Please confirm whether additional clauses have been included (e.g. PFI clauses which will be supplied by your project lead if needed)

<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Clause No.</b>	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Not used</b>

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Introduction and definitions

- 1.1 This Agreement is between the Secretary of State for Education (the “**Secretary of State**”) and Astrum Multi Academy Trust (the “**Academy Trust**”), and is an academy agreement as defined by section 1 of the Academies Act 2010.
- 1.2 The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales with company number 10818052. The Academy Trust is a charity and its directors are the Charity Trustees of the Academy Trust.
- 1.3 In order for the Academy Trust to establish and run a number of Academies in England, according to the provisions of the Academies Act 2010, and in order for the Secretary of State to make payments to the Academy Trust, the Academy Trust must meet the requirements in this Agreement and in each **Supplemental Agreement** that has been entered into by the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State in respect of each Academy.
- 1.4 In this Agreement, and (except as expressly provided otherwise) in each Supplemental Agreement, the capitalised words and expressions listed below will have the following meanings:-

### **Definitions of types of Academies:**

An “**Academy**” is a school or educational institution established and run in accordance with the Academies Act 2010, and where this Agreement refers collectively to “**Academies**” run by the Academy Trust, this may include any of the following types of school or educational institution:

A “**Free School**” means an Academy which is a new educational institution within the meaning of section 9(1)(a) of the Academies Act 2010.

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

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

A “**Special Academy**” means an Academy or a Free School which meets the criteria set out in section 1A(2) of the Academies Act 2010.

A “**Sponsored Academy**” will be (unless otherwise stated) a Mainstream Academy which is established pursuant to an Academy Order under section 4 of the Academies Act 2010, which will be designated as a Sponsored Academy within the Supplemental Agreement applicable to that Academy, and as such certain conditions may apply to it.

“**Studio School**” means a type of Free School, principally for pupils and students aged between 14 and 19, which places an emphasis on such pupils and students obtaining employability skills through project-based learning.

“**University Technical College**” means a type of Free School, principally for pupils and students aged between 14 and 19, which provides technical education with the emphasis on a particular industry or scientific sector.

A “**16-19 Academy**” means an Academy or a Free School which meets the requirements set out in section 1B(1) of the Academies Act 2010.

**Other defined terms:**

“**16-19 Funding Guidance**” means the guidance published by the EFA and amended from time to time, on behalf of the Secretary of State.

“**Academies Financial Handbook**” means the document with that title published by the EFA and amended from time to time, on behalf of the Secretary of State.

“**Academy Financial Year**” means the year from 1 September to 31 August, or a different period notified in writing by the Secretary of State.

“**Articles**” means the Academy Trust’s articles of association.

**"Business day"** means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or any day which is a bank holiday with the meaning given to that expression in the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971.

**"Charity Trustees"** means the directors of the Academy Trust who are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the Academy Trust.

**"Chief Inspector"** means Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills.

**"Commissioner"** means LAs and/or schools referring pupils to an Alternative Provision Academy for admission under the legal powers set out in the relevant Supplemental Agreement.

**"Control"** means the power of an organisation or individual ('A') to ensure that the affairs of a another organisation are conducted in accordance with A's wishes, whether through share ownership or voting power, by agreement, because of powers conferred by articles of association or any other document, or otherwise; and **"Controls"** will be construed accordingly.

**"DfE"** and the expression **"Department"** means the Department for Education or any successor Department which has responsibility for schools"

**"EFA"** means the Education Funding Agency.

**"Guidance"** means guidance issued by or on behalf of the Secretary of State, as amended from time to time.

**"Independent School Standards"** means the independent school standards prescribed under section 157 of the Education Act 2002.

**"LA"** means a local authority.

**"Local Governing Body"** means the committee (if any) established by the Academy Trust in relation to an Academy or Academies, within the Academy Trust, in accordance with the Articles.

**"Parents"** means parents or guardians.

**“Predecessor School”** means the school which the Academy in question replaced, where applicable.

**“Publicly Funded Assets”** means (a) assets or property funded wholly or partly using payments made by or on behalf of the Secretary of State, and (b) publicly funded land as defined in paragraph 22(3) of Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010.

**“Pupil Premium”** means an amount equivalent to the pupil premium as defined in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013

**“Pupil Referral Unit”** means any school established in England and maintained by an LA which is specially organised to provide education for children falling within section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996.

Any reference to **“Secretary of State”** includes a reference to the EFA acting on the Secretary of State’s behalf.

**“Secretary of State’s consent”** means the Secretary of State’s specific, prior written consent, which will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

**“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”** has the meaning as defined in the relevant Supplemental Agreement.

**“Supplemental Agreement”** means an agreement supplemental to this Agreement for any Academy which the Academy Trust agrees to establish and maintain and the Secretary of State agrees to fund, which is substantially in the form of the supplemental funding agreement entered into by both parties at the time that this Agreement is signed.

**“Teaching Staff”** means teachers and the principal or head teacher employed at the Academy.



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

- 1.5 The Interpretation Act 1978 applies to this Agreement as it applies to an Act of Parliament.
- 1.6 A reference in this Agreement to any party or body includes its successors.
- 1.7 Any words following the terms ‘include’, ‘including’ or ‘in particular’ are by way of illustration, not limitation.
- 1.8 A reference in this Agreement to land includes any buildings or structures on the land.
- 1.9 A reference in this Agreement to pupils includes students at a 16-19 Academy.
- 1.10 Where any legislation, legal requirement or published guidance is referred to, unless otherwise stated, the following terms should be interpreted as follows:
  - a) “school” refers to the relevant Mainstream Academy, Alternative Provision Academy, Special Academy or Studio School, and “educational institution” refers, where the context so admits, to a 16-19 Academy;
  - b) the “head teacher” may refer to the Academy’s head teacher or principal;
  - c) references to the “governing body” or “responsible authorities” will be taken to refer to the Academy Trust; and
  - d) references to registered pupils will be treated as references to registered pupils at the Academy.
- 1.11 References in this Agreement or any Supplemental Agreement to any named legislation, legal requirement or published guidance should be taken to include any amendment to or replacement of it.

1.12 If any questions arise about how this Agreement should be interpreted, the answer will be decided by the Secretary of State, after discussion with the Academy Trust.

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

1.13 In order for the Academy Trust to establish and run independent schools and/or educational institutions in England, according to the terms of the Academies Act 2010, and in order for the Secretary of State to make payments to the Academy Trust, the Academy Trust must meet the conditions and requirements set out in this Agreement, and in each Supplemental Agreement for an Academy for which payments are claimed. In particular, the Academy Trust must ensure the Academies it runs meet the applicable requirements as follows:

- a) for **Mainstream Academies**, those specified in Section 1A of the Academies Act 2010;
- b) for **Alternative Provision Academies**, those specified in Section 1C of the Academies Act 2010;
- c) for **16-19 Academies**, those specified in Section 1B of the Academies Act 2010;
- d) for **Special Academies**, those specified in section 1A(2) of the Academies Act 2010, and:
  - i. the Academy Trust must ensure special educational provision is made at each of the Special Academies for one or more categories of SEN. These categories may include, but are not limited to: Specific Learning Difficulties, Moderate Learning Difficulties, Severe Learning Difficulties, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties, Behaviour Emotional Social and Development Needs, Speech Language and Communication Needs, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Multi-Sensory Impairment, Physical Disability;

- ii. the Academy Trust may not refuse to admit a child whose statement of SEN names one of the Special Academies on the sole basis that some, or all, of the child's SEN do not feature in the categories referred to in clause 1.13(d)(i) of this agreement.
- iii. the Academy Trust must comply with all of the obligations imposed upon special academies by legislation, and with the obligations imposed upon the governing bodies of maintained special schools in Chapter 1 of Part 4 of the Education Act 1996.
- iv. the Academy Trust must ensure that each Special Academy's website includes details of the arrangements for the admission of disabled pupils; the steps taken to prevent disabled pupils from being treated less favourably than other pupils; the facilities provided to assist access to the Academy by disabled pupils; and the plan prepared by the Academy Trust under paragraph 3 of Schedule 10 to the Equality Act 2010. Disabled pupils in this paragraph mean pupils who are disabled for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010.

1.14 To the extent that it is compatible with the Academy Trust fulfilling its charitable purpose of advancing education in the United Kingdom for the public benefit, the Academy Trust must ensure that each of its Academies is at the heart of its community, promoting community cohesion and sharing facilities with other schools and/or other educational institutions and the wider community.

1.15 The Academy Trust must conduct its Academies within the terms and requirements of:

- a) the Articles;
- b) any legislation or legal requirement that applies to academies, including the Independent School Standards and legislation about meeting the needs of pupils with SEN and disabilities;

