

SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made *4th of February* 2016

BETWEEN

- (1) THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION; and
- (2) THE BROOKE WESTON TRUST

IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE MASTER FUNDING AGREEMENT made between the same parties and dated 30 March 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 The Compass Primary Academy established at Windmill Avenue, Kettering, Northants, NN15 7EA.

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

"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 The Compass Primary Academy, Windmill Avenue, Kettering, Northants, NN15 7EA.

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 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 capacity of the Academy is 480 in the age range 3 -11. This includes 60 pupils in the nursery provision.

2.5 NOT USED

RUNNING OF THE ACADEMY

Pupils

2.6 The relevant clauses in the Master Agreement shall only apply insofar as the relevant provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014 relating to SEN and disability do not apply to Academies and Free Schools.

School meals

Clauses 32 and 33 of the Master Agreement are disapplied and replaced with the following clauses 2.7, 2.8 and 2.9.

2.7 The Academy Trust must provide school lunches and free school lunches in accordance with the provisions of sections 512(3) and 512ZB(1) of the Education Act 1996 as if references in sections 512 and 512ZB to a local authority were to the Academy Trust and as if references to a school maintained by a local authority were to any of its Academies.

2.8 The Academy Trust must comply with school food standards legislation as if its Academies were maintained schools.

2.9 Where the Academy Trust provides milk to pupils, it must be provided free of charge to pupils who would be eligible for free milk if they were pupils at a maintained school.

Curriculum

- 2.10 The Academy Trust must not allow any view or theory to be taught as evidence-based if it is contrary to established scientific or historical evidence and explanations. This clause applies to all subjects taught at an Academy.
- 2.11 The Academy Trust must provide for the teaching of evolution as a comprehensive, coherent and extensively evidenced theory.
- 2.12 The Academy Trust must ensure that principles are promoted which support fundamental British values, of: respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England; respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes; support for equality of opportunity for all; support and respect for the liberties of all within the law; and respect for and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs.

Governance

- 2.13 The Academy Trust must provide to the Secretary of State the names of all new or replacement members of the Academy Trust, stating the date of their appointment and, where applicable, the name of the member they replaced as soon as is practicable and in any event within 14 days of their appointment.
- 2.14 The Academy Trust must not appoint any new or replacement members until it has first informed them, and they have agreed, that their names will be shared with the Secretary of State to enable him to assess their suitability.
- 2.14A The Academy Trust must not amend or remove the provisions in its Articles relating to the appointment or election or the resignation or removal of Charity Trustees or members ("the Governance Articles") without the Secretary of State's consent.
- 2.14B Before any change to the Governance Articles is proposed the Academy Trust must give notice to the Secretary of State of:
- a) the proposed amendment or removal; and;
 - b) the reason for it.
- 2.14C If the Secretary of State consents to the proposed changes, the Academy Trust shall approve any changes to the Articles as soon as reasonably

practicable and provide the Secretary of State with a copy of the amended Articles and the resolution(s) approving them.

Pupil Premium

2.15 NOT USED

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.

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 2022 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 14-35 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 13-34 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 13-34 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 109 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.

5.19 If

a) Any Charity Trustee or member of the Academy Trust refuses to consent to any checks required under this Agreement, or as otherwise requested by the Secretary of State; or

b) The Secretary of State determines that any Charity Trustee or member of the Academy Trust is unsuitable,

the Secretary of State may:

i) direct the Academy Trust to ensure that the Charity Trustee or member resigns or is removed within 42 days, failing which the Secretary of State may serve a Termination Notice; or

ii) serve a Termination Notice.

5.20 For the purposes of clause 5.19 a Charity Trustee or member of the Academy Trust will be "unsuitable" if that Charity Trustee or member:

a) has been convicted of an offence;

b) has been given a caution in respect of an offence;

c) is subject to a relevant finding in respect of an offence; or

d) has engaged in relevant conduct,

as a result of which, the Secretary of State considers that that Charity Trustee or member is unsuitable to take part in the management of the Academies.

5.21 For the purposes of clause 5.20:

- a) a Charity Trustee or member of the Academy Trust will be subject to a “relevant finding” in respect of an offence if:
- i. that Charity Trustee or member has been found not guilty of the offence by reason of insanity;
 - ii. that Charity Trustee or member has been found to be under a disability and to have done the act charged against them in respect of the offence; or
 - iii. a court outside the United Kingdom has made a finding equivalent to that described in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above.
- b) “relevant conduct” is conduct by a Charity Trustee or member of the Academy Trust which is:
- i. aimed at undermining the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; or
 - ii. found to be in breach of professional standards by a professional body; or
 - iii. so inappropriate that, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, it makes that Charity Trustee or member unsuitable to take part in the management of the Academy.

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 13-34 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:
- 6.5(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
- 6.5(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:

- 6.6(a) The Company obtains his permission to invest the proceeds of sale for its charitable objects; or
- 6.6(b) The Secretary of State directs all or part of the repayment to be paid to the LA.
- 6.7 If any land or premises of the Academy were acquired by the Company from an LA by a scheme under Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 of the Academies Act 2010 or otherwise at less than the market value of the land at the date of acquisition, and the Secretary of State does not make a scheme as provided for in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 of the Academies Act 2010, the Company may dispose of its interest in that land or premises but only with the consent of the Secretary of State, who shall have regard to any representations from the Company and the LA from which the land was transferred before giving or withholding that consent.

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.

6B-6E NOT USED

6F Where:

a) the Secretary of State identifies basic or parental need for additional places in the area in which the Academy is situated; and

b) the Secretary of State then considers that not all the Land is needed for the operation of the Academy at planned capacity,

the Secretary of State must consult with the Academy Trust to determine whether part of the Land could be demised or sublet to another academy trust, as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, for the purpose of that academy trust establishing and maintaining an educational institution on the Land.

6.G To the extent the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State agree to part of the Land being demised or sublet in accordance with clause 6.F, the Academy Trust must use its best endeavours to procure either the approval of the Landlord or any necessary amendments to the Lease in order to enable it to share occupation of the Land with the incoming academy trust, and shall enter into any legal arrangements which the Secretary of State requires for this purpose. The Secretary of State shall meet the necessary and

reasonable costs incurred by the Academy Trust in connection with this clause.

6.H For the purposes of clause 6.F:

- a) a basic need will arise when the forecast demand for pupil places in the area where the Academy is situated is greater than the existing capacity to provide them;
- b) a parental need will arise when the DfE is actually aware of an additional demand for pupil places in the area where the Academy is situated, following representations from parents in that area; and
- c) planned capacity has the meaning given in clause 2.4.

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 4th February 2016
Executed on behalf of The Brooke Weston Trust by:



.....
Director

In the presence of:



Witness.....MRS DEBBIE TYSOE BSc(Hons) FCCA

Address..22 CHEPSTON ROAD, CORBY, NORTHANTS. NN18 8QR

Occupation..ACCOUNTANT

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



Duly Authorised



ANNEX 1

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ADMISSION OF PUPILS TO THE COMPASS PRIMARY ACADEMY

GENERAL

1. This annex may be amended in writing at any time by agreement between the Secretary of State and the Company.
2. The Company will act in accordance with, and will ensure that an Independent Appeal Panel is trained to act in accordance with, all relevant provisions of the School Admissions Code and the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Education ("the Codes") as they apply at any given time to maintained schools and with equalities law and the law on admissions as they apply to maintained schools. For this purpose, reference in the Codes or law to "admission authorities" shall be deemed to be references to the Directors of the Company.
3. Notwithstanding the generality of paragraph 2 of this Annex 1, the Company will take part in any mandatory Admissions Forum set up by the local authority ("LA") in which they are situated and have regard to its advice; and will participate in the co-ordinated admission arrangements operated by the LA and the local Fair Access Protocol.
4. Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement, the Secretary of State may:
 - (a) direct the Company to admit a named pupil to the Compass Primary Academy on application from an LA. This will include complying with a School Attendance Order¹. Before doing so the Secretary of State will consult the Company.
 - (b) direct the Company to admit a named pupil to the Compass Primary Academy if the Company has failed to act in accordance with this Annex or has otherwise failed to comply with applicable admissions and equalities legislation or the provisions of the Codes.
 - (c) direct the Company to amend its admission arrangements where they fail to comply with the School Admission Code or the Admission Appeals Code.

¹ Local authorities are able to issue school attendance orders if a child is not attending school. These are legally binding upon parents. Such an order might, for instance, be appropriate where a child has a place at an Academy but his/her parents are refusing to send him/her to school. The order will require a parent to ensure his/her child attends a specified school.

5. The Company shall ensure that parents and 'relevant children'² will have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel if they are dissatisfied with an admission decision of the Company. The Independent Appeal Panel will be independent of the Company. The arrangements for appeals will comply with the School Admission Appeals Code published by the Department for Education as it applies to Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools. The determination of the appeal panel is binding on all parties.

Relevant Area

6. Subject to paragraph 7, the meaning of "Relevant Area" for the purposes of consultation requirements in relation to admission arrangements is that determined by the local authority for maintained schools in the area in accordance with the Education (Relevant Areas for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999.

7. If the Academy does not consider the relevant area determined by the local authority for the maintained schools in the area to be appropriate, it must apply to the Secretary of State by 1 August for a determination of the appropriate relevant area for the Academy, setting out the reasons for this view. The Secretary of State will consider the Academy and its LA in which the Academy is situated in reaching a decision

Requirement to admit pupils

8. Pupils on roll in any predecessor maintained or independent school will transfer automatically to the Academy on opening. All children already offered a place at any predecessor school will be admitted.

9. The Academy will:

- a. Subject to its right of appeal to the Secretary of State in relation to a named pupil, admit all pupils with a statement of special educational needs naming the Academy;
- b. Adopt admission oversubscription criteria that give highest priority to looked after children, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the School Admissions Code.

Oversubscription criteria, admission number, consultation, determination and objections.

10. The Academy admission arrangements will include oversubscription criteria, and an admission number for each relevant age group³. The

² 'relevant children' means:

- a) in the case of appeals for entry to a sixth form, the child, and;
- b) in any other case, children who are above compulsory school age, or will be above compulsory school age by the time they start to receive education at the school.

³ 'Relevant age group' means normal point of admission to the school; for example, year R.

Academy will consult on its admission arrangements and determine them in line with requirements within the School Admissions Code.

11. Education Funding Agency (EFA) may consider objections on the Secretary of State's behalf. The Company should therefore make it clear, when determining the Academy's admission arrangements, that objections should be submitted to the EFA.

12. A determination of an objection by the EFA on behalf of the Secretary of State, or by the Secretary of State will be binding upon the Academy.