

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION
(PRIVATE SCHOOL BRANCH)
OLD SECRETARIAT, DELHI-110054

No. F.DE.15 (278)/PSB/2019 / 1475-1479

Dated: 04/04/19

Order

WHEREAS, this Directorate vide its order No. DE.15 (318)/PSB/2016/19786 dated 17.10.2017 issued 'Guidelines for implementation of 7th Central Pay Commission's recommendations in private unaided recognized Schools in Delhi' and directed that the private unaided Schools, which are running on land allotted by DDA/other govt. agencies with the condition in their allotment letter to seek prior approval of Director (Education) before any fee increase, needs to submit their online fee increase proposal for the academic session 2017-18. Accordingly, vide circular no. 19849-19857 dated 23.10.2017, the fee increase proposals were invited from all aforesaid Schools till 30.11.2017 and this date was further extended to 14.12.2017 vide Directorate's order No. DE.15 (318)/PSB/2016/20535 dated 20.11.2017 in compliance of directions of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide its order dated 14.11.2017 in CM No. 40939/2017 in WPC 10023/2017.

AND WHEREAS, attention is also invited towards order of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dated 19.01.2016 in writ petition No. 4109/2013 in the matter of Justice for All versus GNCTD and others wherein it has been directed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court that the Director of Education will ensure the compliance of conditions, if any, in the letter of allotment regarding prior approval of Director of education for the increase of fee by all the recognized unaided Schools which are allotted land by DDA.

AND WHEREAS, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi while issuing the aforesaid direction has observed that the issue regarding the liability of private unaided Schools situated on the land allotted by DDA at concessional rates has been conclusively decided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the judgment dated 27.04.2004 passed in Civil Appeal No. 2699 of 2001 titled Modern School V. Union of India and others wherein Hon'ble Supreme Court in Para 27 and 28 has held as under:-

"27....

(c) It shall be the duty of the Director of Education to ascertain whether terms of allotment of land by the Government to the Schools have been complied with...

28. We are directing the Director of Education to look into the letters of allotment issued by the Government and ascertain whether they (terms and conditions of land allotment) have been complied with by the Schools.....

.....If in a given case, Director finds non-compliance of above terms, the Director shall take appropriate steps in this regard."

AND WHEREAS, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the above said Judgment also held that under section 17(3),18(4) of Delhi School Education Act, 1973 read with rule 172,173,175 and 177 of Delhi School Education Rules 1973, Directorate of Education has the authority to regulate the fee and other charges to prevent commercialization of education.

AND WHEREAS, in pursuance to order dated 23.10.2017 of this Directorate, **Vanasthali Public School, G Block, Preet Vihar, Delhi – 110092 (School Id: 1002371)** had submitted the proposal for increase in fee for the academic session 2017-18 including the impact on account of implementation of recommendations of 7th CPC.

AND WHEREAS, in order to ensure that the proposals submitted by the Schools for fee increase are justified or not, this Directorate has deployed teams of expert Chartered Accountants at HQ level who have evaluated the fee proposals of the School very carefully in accordance with the provisions of the DSEA, 1973, the DSER, 1973 and other orders/ circulars issued from time to time by this Directorate for fee regulation.

AND WHEREAS, necessary records and explanations were also called from the School vide email dated April 03, 2018 and October 29, 2018. Further, School was also provided opportunity of being heard on January 07, 2019 to present its

justifications/ clarifications on fee increase proposal including audited financial statements and based on the discussions, School was further asked to submit necessary documents and clarifications on various issues noted.

AND WHEREAS, the reply of the School, documents uploaded on the web portal for fee increase and subsequent documents submitted by the School were evaluated thoroughly by the team of Chartered Accountants. The key findings noted are as under:

Financial Irregularities

- I. Section 13 of RTE Act, 2009 states that the school should not charge capitation fee from the students at the time of admission, contravention of which shall be punishable with fine which may extend to ten times of the capitation fee charged. However, as explained by the school during discussion, it has been collecting development charges from the students only at the time of admission which is in the nature of capitation fee. Thus, the school may be instructed not to collect capitation fee in the name of development charges from the students at the time of their admission.

Further, as per clause 14 of order no. F.DE. /15(56)/Act/2009/778 dated 11.02.2009, development fee, not exceeding 15% of the total annual tuition fees may be charged for supplementing the resources for purchase, up-gradation and replacement of furniture, fixture and equipment. Development fee, if required to be charged shall be treated as capital receipt and shall be collected only if the School is maintaining depreciation reserve fund, equivalent to the depreciation charged in the revenue accounts and the collections under this head along with income generated from the investment made out of this fund will be kept separately maintained development fund account. However, on review of audited financial statements for FY 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, it has been noted that the School has treated development fee as revenue receipts. Thus, School is directed to make necessary adjustments in the development fund and general reserve fund.

- II. In respect of earmarked levies, school is required to comply with:
- ▶ Clause 22 of order dated 11.02.2009, which specifies that earmarked levies shall be charged from user students on 'no profit no loss' basis;
 - ▶ Rule 176 of DSER, 1973, which provides that 'income derived from collections for specific purpose shall be spent only for such purpose';
 - ▶ Judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the case of Modern School Vs Union of India and others, which specifies that schools, being run as non-profit organizations, are supposed to follow fund-based accounting.

On review of audited financial statements of the FY 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, it has been observed that the school is charging earmarked levies namely transport fee, activity fee and Discover Science fee from the students but these fees are not charged on 'no profit no loss' basis as the school is either earning surplus or incurring deficit from these levies. During the period under evaluation, school has generated surplus on account of activity fee and has incurred deficit in respect of transport fee as discover science fee. Further, fund based accounting has not been followed by the school for these earmarked levies. Therefore, the School is directed to follow fund based accounting.

Moreover, as per the Duggal Committee report, there are four categories of fee that can be charged by a school. The first category of fee comprises of "registration fee and all One Time Charges" which is levied at the time of admission such as Admission and Caution Money. The second category of fee comprise of "Tuition Fee" which is to be fixed to cover the standard cost of the establishment and also to cover expenditure of revenue nature for the improvement of curricular facilities like Library, Laboratories, Science and Computer fee up to class X and examination fee. The third category of the fee should consist of "Annual Charges" to cover all expenditure not included in the second category and the forth category should consist of all "Earmarked Levies" for the services rendered by the school and to be recovered only from the 'User' students'. These charges are Transport Fee, Swimming Pool Charges, Horse Riding, Tennis, Midday Meals etc.

Based on the aforesaid provisions, earmarked are to be collected only from the user students availing the facilities and if, the services are extended to other Students of the school, a separate charge should not be levied by the school as it would get covered either from the Tuition Fee or from Annual Charges accordingly school should not charge a separate levy for these facilities in the name of "Activity fee and Discover science fee".

- III. On review of audited financial statements for FY 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, it has been noted that the School has not presented its fixed assets in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. School has been preparing two Schedules of fixed assets but the total of fixed assets from these schedules are not matching with the fixed assets been shown on the face of the balance sheet. During discussion, School has submitted that it is showing only those fixed assets which have been purchased and paid during the year. The explanation given by School is not in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles. Thus, School is directed to follow generally accepted accounting principles while preparing its financial statements.

Other Irregularities

- I. As per the condition specified in the Land allotment letter the school is required to provides 25% reservation to children belonging to EWS category. Since the school is not complying with the aforesaid condition. Therefore, the concerned DDE may be required to look into the matter.
- II. As per AS-15 'Employee Benefit' issued by ICAI. "An entity should determine the present value of defined benefit obligations and their fair value of any plan asset so that the amounts recognised in the financial statement do not differ materially from the amounts that would be determine at the balance sheet date. However, the school has not provided any amount towards the Gratuity and Leave Encashment in its financial statement. Therefore, the school is required to determine and provide for statutory liability towards Gratuity and Leave encashment as per the actuarial valuation report as required by AS-15.

2281

- III. The school is not charging depreciation on the fixed assets to the income and expenditure account in any of the FY 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 as required by Accounting Standard -6 on "Depreciation Accounting" or Revised Accounting Standard -10 "Property, Plant and Equipment" resulting in understatement of surplus/deficit as appearing in the financial statements. Therefore, school may be instructed to comply with the accounting standard issued by ICAI.
- IV. The School has not maintained fixed assets register in any of the financial year 2014-15 to 2016-17. Therefore, the school may be instructed to maintain fixed assets register and submit the same at the time of next fee increase proposal.

After detailed examination of all the material on record and considering the clarification submitted by the School, it was finally evaluated/ concluded that:

- i. The total funds available for the FY 2017-18 amounting to **Rs. 1,21,14,482** out of which cash outflow in the FY 2017-18 is estimated to be **Rs. 1,32,57,205**. This results in deficit of **Rs. 11,42,723**. The details are as follow:

(Figures in Rs.)

Particulars	Amount
Cash and Bank Balances as on 31.03.2017 as per Audited Financial Statements	1,84,792
Investments as on 31.03.2017 as per Audited Financial Statements*	1,25,000
Less: Fixed Deposit in the joint name of Manager of School and DDE East	1,25,000
Total	1,84,792
Add: Fees for FY 2016-17 as per Audited Financial Statements (we have assumed that the amount received in FY 2016-17 will at least accrue in FY 2017-18)	1,18,86,790
Add: Other income for FY 2016-17 as per Audited Financial Statements (we have assumed that the amount received in FY 2016-17 will at least accrue in FY 2017-18)	42,900
Estimated availability of funds for 2016-17	1,21,14,482
Less: Budgeted expenses for the session 2017-18 (after making adjustment) (Refer Note 1)	1,32,57,205
Estimated Deficit	11,42,723

Adjustments:

Note 1: During discussion the school has submitted that it would not pay salary arrears of 7th CPC therefore, the salary arrear proposed by the school as arrears amounting Rs.18,13,663 has not been considered for evaluation of fee increase proposal.

- ii. It seems that the School may not be able to meet its budgeted expenses from the existing fees structure and accordingly, it should utilise its existing funds/ reserves. In this regard, Directorate of Education has already issued directions to the Schools vide circular no. 1978 dated 16/04/2010 that,

“All Schools must, first of all, explore and exhaust the possibility of utilising the existing funds/ reserves to meet any shortfall in payment of salary and allowances, as a consequence of increase in the salary and allowance of the employees. A part of the reserve fund which has not been utilised for years together may also be used to meet the shortfall before proposing a fee increase.”

AND WHEREAS, in the light of above evaluation which is based on the provisions of DSEA, 1973, DSER, 1973, guidelines, orders and circulars issued from time to time by this Directorate, it was recommended by the team of Chartered Accountants that though certain financial irregularities exist (appropriate financial impact of which has been taken on the fund position of the School) and certain procedural finding noted (appropriate instruction against which have been given in this order), the fee increase proposal of the School may be accepted.

AND WHEREAS, recommendations of the team of Chartered Accountants along with relevant material were put before the Director of Education for consideration and who after considering all the material on the record, found it appropriate to allow the increase in tuition fee by 15% from 01 April, 2019.

Accordingly, it is hereby conveyed that the proposal of fee increase for academic session 2017-18 of **Vanasthali Public School, G Block, Preet Vihar, Delhi – 110092 (School Id: 1002371)** has been accepted by the Director of Education with effect from April 01, 2019 and the School is hereby allowed to increase the tuition fee by 15%.

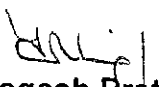


Further, the management of said school is hereby directed under section 24(3) of DSEAR 1973 to comply with the following directions:

1. To increase the tuition fee only by the prescribed percentage from the specified date.
2. To rectify all the financial and other irregularities as listed above and submit the compliance report within 30 days from the date of this order to the D.D.E (PSB).
3. To ensure implementation of recommendations of 7th CPC in accordance with Directorate order dated 25.08.2017.
4. To ensure that the salaries and allowances shall come out from the fees whereas capital expenditure will be a charge on the savings in accordance with the principles laid down by Hon'ble Supreme Court of Delhi in its Judgment of Modern School vs Union of India and others. Therefore, School not to include capital expenditure as a component of fee structure to be submitted by the School under section 17(3) of DSEA, 1973.
5. To utilize the fee collected from students in accordance with the provisions of Rule 177 of the DSER, 1973 and orders and directions issued by this Directorate from time to time.

Non-compliance of this order or any direction herein shall be viewed seriously and will be dealt with the provision of section 24(4) of DSEA, 1973 and DSER, 1973.

This is issued with the prior approval of the Competent Authority.


(Yogesh Pratap)

**Deputy Director of Education
(Private School Branch)**

Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi

2284

To

The Manager/ HoS

Vanasthali Public School, G Block, Preet Vihar, Delhi – 110092 (School Id: 1002371)

No. F.DE.15 (278)/PSB/2019 / 1475 - 1479

Dated: 04/04/19

Copy to:

1. P.S. to Secretary (Education), Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi.
2. P.S. to Director (Education), Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi.
3. P.A. to Addl. Director of Education (Private School Branch), Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi.
4. DDE concerned
5. Guard file.



(Yogesh Pratap)

Deputy Director of Education

(Private School Branch)

Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi