

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

No. F.DE.15 (1431)/PSB/2023/ 5331-5336

Dated: 13/06/23

Order

WHEREAS, VSPK International School (School ID - 1413209), Sector-13, Rohini, New Delhi - 110085 (hereinafter referred to as "**the School**"), run by the Giriraj Educational & Welfare Society (hereinafter referred to as "**Society**"), is a private unaided school recognized by the Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi (hereinafter referred to as "**DoE**"), under the provisions of Delhi School Education Act & Rules, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as "**DSEAR, 1973**"). The school is statutorily bound to comply with the provisions of the DSEAR, 1973 and RTE Act, 2009, as well as the directions/guidelines issued by the DoE from time to time.

WHEREAS, every school is required to file a full statement of fees every year before the ensuing academic session under section 17(3) of the Delhi School Education Act, 1973 (hereinafter read as "**the Act**") with the Director. Such statement will indicate estimated income of the school derived from fees, estimated current operational expenses towards salaries and allowances payable to employees etc in terms of Rule 177(1) of the Delhi School Education Rules, 1973 (hereinafter read as "**the Rules**").

AND WHEREAS, as per section 18(5) of the Act read with section 17(3), 24 (1) of the Act and Rule 180 (3) of the DSEA & R, 1973, responsibility has been conferred upon the Director (Education) to examine the audited financial, account and other records maintained by the school at least once in each financial year. The Section 18(5) and Section 24(1) of the Act and Rule 180 (3) have been reproduced as under:

Section 18(5): *'the managing committee of every recognised private school shall file every year with the Director such duly audited financial and other returns as may be prescribed, and every such return shall be audited by such authority as may be prescribed'*

Section 24(1): *'every recognised school shall be inspected at least once in each financial year in such manner as may be prescribed'*

Rule 180 (3): *'the account and other records maintained by an unaided private school shall be subject to examination by the auditors and inspecting officers authorised by the Director in this behalf and also by officers authorised by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.'*

Thus, the Director (Education) has the authority to examine the full statement of fees filled under section 17(3) of the DSEA, 1973 and returns and documents submitted under section 18(5) of DSEA, 1973 read with rule 180 (1) of DSER, 1973

AND WHEREAS, besides the above, the Director (Education) is also required to examine and evaluate the fee hike proposal submitted by the private unaided recognized schools which have been allotted land by the DDA/ other land-owning agencies with the condition in their allotment to seek prior approval from Director (Education) before any increase in fee.

AND WHEREAS, besides the above, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the judgment dated 27.04.2004 passed in Civil Appeal No. 2699 of 2001 titled Modern School Vs. Union of India and others has conclusively decided that under section 17(3), 18(4) read along with rule 172, 173, 175 and 177 of the Rules, Directorate of Education has the authority to regulate the fee and other charges to prevent the profiteering and commercialization of education.

AND WHEREAS, it was also directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to the Director of Education in the aforesaid matter titled Modern School Vs. Union of India and others in Para 27 and 28 in case of Private unaided Schools situated on the land allotted by DDA at concessional rates that:

"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 High Court of Delhi vide its judgement dated 19.01.2016 in writ petition No. 4109/2013 in the matter of Justice for All versus Govt. of NCT of Delhi and others has reiterated the aforesaid directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and has directed the Director of Education to ensure the compliance of term, if any, in the letter of allotment regarding the increase of the fee by all the recognized unaided schools which are allotted land by DDA/ land owing agencies.

AND WHEREAS, accordingly, the DoE vide Order No. F.DE-15(40)/PSB/2019/4440-4412 dated 08.06.2022, directed all the private unaided recognized schools, running on the land allotted by DDA/other land-owning agencies at concessional rates or otherwise, with the condition to seek prior approval of DoE for increase in fee, to submit their proposals, if any, for prior sanction, for increase in fee for the academic session 2022-23

AND WHEREAS, in pursuance to Order dated 08.06.2022 of the DoE, the School submitted its proposal for enhancement of fee for the academic session 2022-23. Accordingly, this Order dispenses the proposal for enhancement of fee submitted by school for the academic session 2022-23.

AND WHEREAS, in order to examine the proposals submitted by the schools for fee increase for justifiability or not, the DoE has evaluated the fee increase proposals of the School carefully in accordance with the provisions of the DSEAR, 1973, and other Orders/ Circulars issued from time to time by the DoE.

AND WHEREAS, in the process of examination of the fee hike proposal filed by the aforesaid school, necessary records and explanations were also called from the school through email dated 22.02.2023. The school was also provided an opportunity to be heard on 02.03.2023 to present its justifications/clarifications on the fee increase proposal. Based on the discussion with the school during a personal hearing, the school was further asked to submit the necessary documents and clarification on various issues noted. In the aforesaid personal hearing, compliance of Order No. FD.E 15/ (808)/PSB/2022/5226-5230 dated 29.06.2022 issued for FY 2019-20 were also discussed with the school and the school's submissions were taken on record. In addition, the some other documents received from the aforesaid school through email dt. 06.06.2023 has also been taken on record.

AND WHEREAS, on receipt of clarification as well as documents uploaded on the web portal for the fee hike post personal hearing, the fee hike proposal was evaluated by the DoE and the key suggestions noted for improvement by the school are hereunder:

A. Financial Suggestion for Improvements

1. Clause No. 2 of Public Notice dated 04.05.1997 states *"It is the responsibility of the society who has established the school to raise such funds from their own sources or donations from the other associations because the immovable property of the school becomes the sole property of the society"*. Additionally, Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in its judgement dated 30.10.1998 titled Delhi Abibhavak Mahasangh concluded states *"the tuition fee cannot be fixed to recover capital expenditure to be incurred on the properties of the society."* Also, Clause (vii) (c) of Order No. F.DE/15/Act/2K/243/KKK/ 883-1982 dated 10.02.2005 issued by this Directorate states *"Capital expenditure cannot constitute a component of the financial fee structure."*

Also, Rule 177 of DSER, 1973 states *"Income derived by an unaided recognized school by way of fees shall be utilized in the first instance, for meeting the pay, allowances, and other benefits admissible to the employees of the school. Provided that, savings, if any, from the fees collected by such school may be utilized by its management committee for meeting capital or contingent expenditure of the school, or for one or more of the following educational purposes, nameily award of scholarships to students, establishment of any other recognized school, or assisting any other school or educational institution,*

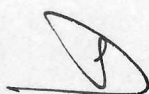
of any other recognized school, or assisting any other school or educational institution, not being a college, under the management of the same society or trust by which the first mentioned school is run. The aforesaid savings shall be arrived at after providing for the following, namely:

- a) Pension, gratuity and other specified retirement and other benefits admissible to the employees of the school.*
- b) The needed expansion of the school or any expenditure of a developmental nature.*
- c) The expansion of the school building or for the expansion or construction of any building or establishment of hostel or expansion of hostel accommodation.*
- d) Co-curricular activities of the students.*
- e) Reasonable reserve fund, not being less than ten percent, of such savings.*

Therefore, based on the above-mentioned provisions, the cost relating to land and construction of the school building should be borne by the society running the school and school funds, i.e., fees collected from the students should not be used for the purchase of land and construction of the school building. In this regard, it is also important to mention that society was allotted an institutional land at very low cost compared to the price of commercial and as well as residential land of that nearby locality. The reason for allotment of land as such low cost was the society came up with the offer to do noble work in the field of education and run the school in Delhi on charity and on a "no profit and no loss" basis. In its offer the society also undertook to execute this work from its resources or by arranging funds through donations, subscriptions, or any other legal possible manner. Based on the noble grounds, the DoE had recommended to the land-owning agencies for allotment of land to society which would otherwise not be possible for the society to have such a prime land at this cost in such posh location.

Accordingly, if the DoE finds any deviation or non-compliance in any condition of land allotment letter, the society as well as the school are bound to comply and honor that immediately as per the direction of the DoE. Society cannot always claim the protection of Article 19(1)(g), 21 & 30 of the Constitution of India for non-interference by the DoE. Because the main source (i.e., land) which was required to establish and run the school was supported by DoE by recommending to land owning agency to allotment the land to the society. After considering the recommendation of the DoE, a clause was included in the land allotment letter of the school that the school shall not increase the fee without the prior sanction of the Director (Education) and shall follow the provisions of the Delhi School Education Act/Rules, 1973 and other instructions issued by the department from time to time.

The DoE in its Order No. FD.E 15/ (808)/PSB/2022/5226-5230 dated 29.06.2022 issued to the school post evaluation of fee hike proposal for academic session 2019-20, noted that the school had incurred expenditure on construction of building amounting to INR 5,41,64,285 in FY 2016-17 to FY 2018-19 whereas the same had been recognized as revenue expenditure. The expenditure was incurred without complying with the aforesaid



mentioned provisions. Therefore, the school was directed to recover INR 5,41,64,285 from society which is still pending for recovery.

During the personal hearing the school had explained that such expenditure was related to repairs only. To validate its claim, the school had submitted the ledgers and bills against the same. On review of details submitted by the school, noted that bills have been provided randomly for the petty repair expenses. However, invoices ranging from INR 2,00,000- INR 5,00,000 for the following vendors "M/s OM Trading Company, Venus Marble Tile House, M/s Anmol Trading company, Gaurav Jain, Rajesh Jain, Hukum Singh, Kamlesh Sharma, M/s Gagan Timber Traders, M/s Gupta sales, Gaurav Builder, Y D Sharma, M/s A-One marble House" has not been submitted by the school. Further expenses related to R&M- Electrical amounting to INR 45,31,648 are related to electrical repairs. Accordingly, the aforesaid recovery of INR 5,41,64,285 has been reduced by INR 45,31,648.

Therefore, the remaining expenditure of INR 4,96,32,637 i.e. (INR 5,41,64,285 minus INR 45,31,648) which is related to the construction of the school building is still stood to be recoverable from the society. Accordingly, it has been included while deriving the fund position of the school with the direction to the school to recover this amount from society within 30 days from the date of issue of this order. Non-compliance with this direction by the school necessary action against the school shall be taken in accordance with section 24 of the DSEA, 1973.

2. Clause (vii) (c) of Order No. F.DE/15/Act/2K/243/KKK/ 883-1982 dated 10.02.2005 issued by this Directorate states "*Capital expenditure cannot constitute a component of the financial fee structure.*"

Section 18(4) of DSEA,1973 states "*Income derived by unaided school by way of fees shall be utilized only for such educational purpose as may be prescribed*". And Rule 176 of the DSER, 1973 states "*Income derived from collections for specific purposes shall be spent only for such purpose.*"

The DoE in its Order No. FD.E 15/ (808)/PSB/2022/5226-5230 dated 29.06.2022 issued to the school post evaluation of fee hike proposal for academic session 2019-20 and it's earlier orders, noted that school had spent INR 10,56,060 on purchase of cars in FY 2016-17. As the expenditure was incurred without complying with the above-mentioned provisions. Accordingly, the school was directed to recover INR 10,56,060 from society which is still pending for recovery.

Therefore, the amount of INR 10,56,060 utilized by the school for purchase of cars as per the previous year orders is still recoverable from the society and has been included in the fund position with the school with the direction to the school to recover this amount from society within 30 days from the date of issue of this order. Non-compliance with this directive would be taken seriously, and the department would take appropriate action



against the school under Section 24(4) of the DSEA, 1973 without giving any further opportunity to the school.

3. The DoE in its Order No. FD.E 15/ (808)/PSB/2022/5226-5230 dated 29.06.2022 issued to the school post evaluation of fee hike proposal for academic session 2019-20 noted that the school had paid INR 30,00,000 to HR consultant and (Mrs. Kasturin Pramanik) and Parents counsellor (Ispreet Kaur). However, based on the documents submitted the expenditure was unreasonable and unjustified. Accordingly, the school was directed to recover INR 30,00,000 from the society which is still pending for recovery.

Therefore, the total amount of INR 30,00,000 utilized by school for making payment to consultants has been included in the fund position of the school with the direction to the school to recover the amount from the society.

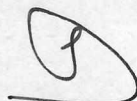
4. Clause 14 of this Directorate's Order No.F.DE/15 (56)/Act/2009/778 dated 11.02.2009 states "*Development fee, not exceeding 15% of the total annual tuition fee may be charged for supplementing the resources for purchase, up gradation and replacement of furniture, fixtures and equipment. Development Fee, if required to be charged, shall be treated as capital receipt, and shall be collected only if the school is maintaining a Depreciation Reserve Fund, equivalent to the depreciation charged in the revenue accounts and the collection under this head along with and income generated from the investment made from this fund, will be kept in a separately maintained Development fund Account.*"

Clause of Order No. F.DE!15/Act/2K/243/KKK/883-1982 dated 10.02.2005 issued by this Directorate states "Capital expenditure cannot constitute a component of the financial fee structure".

The DoE in its Order No. FD.E 15/ (808)/PSB/2022/5226-5230 dated 29.06.2022 issued to the school post evaluation of fee hike proposal for academic session 2019-20 noted that the school had incurred capital expenditure of INR 15,51,230 out of the school funds without complying the with the aforesaid provisions. Accordingly, the school was directed to recover INR 15,51,230 from the society which is still pending for recovery.

Therefore, the total amount of INR 15,51,230 utilized by school for capital expenditure has been included in the fund position of the school with the direction to the school to recover the amount from the society.

5. Para 7.14 of AS-15 "*Employee Benefit*" issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) states 'Plan Assets as:
 - a. assets held by a long-term employee benefit fund; and
 - b. qualifying insurance policies."



Further, the para 57 of the AS-15 states *“an enterprise should determine the present value of defined benefit obligations and the fair value any plan assets with sufficient regularity that the amounts recognized in the financial statements do not differ materially from the amounts that would be determined at the balance sheet date.”*

Review of the audited financial statements of FY 2021-22 revealed that the school has recorded liability for retirement benefits in accordance with the actuarial valuation report. As per the actuarial valuation report the total liability for retirement benefits were INR 1,14,43,619 (INR 99,43,318 for gratuity plus INR 15,00,301 for leave encashment.)

Against the total liability for retirement benefits, the school has not invested any amount with LIC. Therefore, no amount has been considered while deriving the fund position of the school. Similar observation was also noted while evaluating the fees hike proposal for academic session 2019.20. Accordingly, the school is once again directed to invest the amount in plan assets within 30 days from the date of issue of this order. Non-compliance with the above direction shall be viewed seriously in accordance with the provisions of Section 24(4) of the DSEA, 1973 while evaluating the fee hike proposal for the subsequent academic session.

B. Other Suggestion for Improvements

1. From a review of documents submitted by the school post personal hearing, the following has been noted with respect to the Fixed Asset Register (FAR) maintained by the school:
 - No tagging of the assets has been done in Fixed Assets Register (FAR) and location is not identified due to which assets could not be physically verified.
 - Depreciation for the individual assets is not recorded in the FAR, only cost of the assets is available in the FAR and WDV of the assets is not available.
 - Invoice number, manufacturer's serial number and location of the asset is not mentioned in the fixed assets register.

Therefore, the School is hereby directed to prepare a FAR, which should include details such as asset description, purchase date, supplier name, invoice number, manufacturer's serial number, location, purchase cost, other costs incurred, depreciation, asset identification number, etc. to facilitate identification of asset and documenting complete details of assets at one place. The school is further directed to comply with the directions for preparing FAR with relevant details mentioned above according to the process for periodic physical verification of assets and documenting the results of physical verification of assets. The same shall be verified at the time of evaluation of the fee hike proposal for subsequent years. This being a procedural finding, no financial impact is warranted on the fund position of the school.



2. *Section 18(5) of the DSEA, 1973 states "the managing committee of every recognized private school shall file every year with the Director such duly audited financial and other returns as may be prescribed, and every such returns shall be audited by such authority as may be prescribed".*

Further, Rule 180 (1) of DSER, 1973 states *"every recognized private school shall submit returns and documents in accordance with Appendix-II"*.

Point No. (2) of the Appendix-II requires final accounts i.e., receipts and payments account, income and expenditure account and balance sheet of the preceding year should be duly audited by the Chartered Accountant.

Accordingly, DoE specified vide Order No. F.DE-15/ACT-I/WPC-4109/Part/13/7905-7913 dated 16.04.2016, the format of returns and other documents required to be submitted by the private unaided recognized schools. The aforesaid order also specified format for the financial statements to be such as specified by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), established under Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (38 of 1949) in Guidance Note-21 'Accounting by Schools (2005)' as amended from time to time.

Based on the aforesaid provisions, every private unaided recognized school is required to get its accounts audited by a Chartered Accountant before submitting a return under Rule 180(1) of DSER, 1973. The documents submitted by the school for evaluation of the fee hike proposal were taken on record. Review of the audited financial statements and Independent Auditors Report for FY 2021-22 the following was noted:

- a. The Independent Audit Report was not issued in the format prescribed by Standard on Auditing 700 (SA-700), as defined by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Because most of the content of the Independent Auditors' Report was missing, such as the auditors' and management's responsibilities.

In light of the foregoing, the school is hereby directed to strengthen its process for preparation and presentation of financial statements in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions. However, the audited financial statements submitted by the school have been considered for the evaluation of the fee hike proposal of the school.

3. *Section 13 (1) of the Right to Education Act, 2009 states that "no school or person shall, while admitting a child, collect any capitation fee and subject the child or his or her parents or guardian to any screening procedure".*

Section 13 (2) of the Right to Education Act, 2009 states that *"Any school or person, if in contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1):*

- a. *receives capitation fee, shall be punishable with fine which may be extended to ten times the capitation fee charged.*

- b. *subjects a child to screening procedures shall be punishable with a fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees for the first contravention and fifty thousand rupees for each subsequent contravention.*

And section 2(b) of the Right to Education Act, 2009 states "*capitation fee*" means any kind of donation or contribution or payment other than the fee notified by the school.

Further, the Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 02.05.2016 in the matter of Modern 'Dental College and Research Centre Vs. State of Madhya Pradesh [Medical Council of India]' held that education is a noble profession and emphasized that:

"Every demand of capitation fee by educational institutions is unethical & illegal. It emphasized that commercialization and exploitation are not permissible in the education sector and institutions must run on a 'no-profit-no-loss' basis".

The Hon'ble Supreme Court categorically held that *"though education is now treated as an 'occupation' and, thus, has become a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 19(1) (g) of the Constitution, at the same time shackles are put in so far as this particular occupation is concerned, which is termed as noble. Therefore, profiteering and commercialization are not permitted, and no capitation fee can be charged. The admission of students has to be on merit and not at the whims and fancies of the educational institutions,"*

Further, the Hon'ble High Court in LPA 196/2004 in the matter of 'Rakesh Goyal Vs. Montfort School and Section 13(1) of RTE Act, 2009' states *"no school or person shall, while admitting a child, collect any Capitation fee/Donation from the parents. Any school or person who contravenes this provision and receives a capitation fee, shall be punishable with a fine which may extend to ten times the capitation fee charged".*

Further, The Directorate of Education, vide Order No. DE15/Act/Duggal.com/203/99/23033-23980 dated 15.12.1999 and Order No.F.DE, /15(56)/Act/2009/778 dated 11.02.2009, indicated the following types of fees that a recognised private unaided school can collect from the students/ parents:

- a. Registration Fee
- b. Admission Fee:
- c. Caution Money
- d. Tuition Fee
- e. Annual Charges
- f. Earmarked Levies
- g. Development Fee

Based on the provisions mentioned above, charging of 'E-learning set-up and vedic math,' from the students is in the nature of capitation fee only. Additionally, if the school is charging unwarranted fee under different heads or introduce new head of fee other

than the prescribed heads of fee and accumulates surplus fund out of it, it is also prima-facie considered to be a collection of capitation fee in other manner and form.

Accordingly, the collection of E-learning set-up and vedic math indicates that the school is engaged in profiteering and commercialization of education.

As per Section 27 of the DSEA, 1973, the manager of the school is responsible to look after the operation of the school smoothly and to ensure compliance with the provision of the DSEAR, 1973 including the compliance of the High Court/Supreme Court and orders/circulars issued by the Directorate of Education from time to time in this regard. As the manager and principal have been bestowed with the power to ensure the school's proper functioning, including ensuring the admission process transparently are jointly as well as in their personal capacity be responsible for levy and collection of capitation fee and any another unauthorized fee collected by the school.

Therefore, the school is directed to not charge capitation as mentioned above with immediate effect and submit the compliance within 30 days from the date of issue of this order. Non-compliance with this direction would be reviewed seriously and a necessary action against the school will be initiated U/s 24(4) of the DSEA, 1973 by the department.

Further, the school had proposed 2 additional monthly fees i.e., *Digital Learning Support to Students (Tablets & Software) (Nur to V)* and *Digital Learning Support to Students (Tablets & Software) (All Classes)* amounting to INR 20,833 and INR 15,000. The school is directed not to charge such capitation fee from the students.

4. Clause 103 on Related Party Disclosure, contained in Guidance Note 21 on 'Accounting by Schools', issued by the ICAI, there is a requirement that keeping in the view the involvement of public funds, schools are required to disclose the transactions made in respect of related parties.

From review of the audited financial statements of 2022, it has been noted that the school has not made any disclosure relating to related party transactions in its audited financial statements. In the absence of such details, the purpose and genuineness of transactions entered between the related parties cannot be determined. Therefore, the School is hereby directed to include such details in audited financial statements of the subsequent year.

5. The Directorate in its Order No. F.DE-15/ACT-I/WPC-4109/Part/13/7905-7913 dated 16.04.2016 "The Director hereby specify that the format of return and documents to be submitted by schools under rule 180 read with Appendix-II of the Delhi School Education Rules, 1973 shall be as per format specified by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, established under Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (38 of 1949) in Guidance Note on Accounting by Schools (2005) or as amended from time to time by this Institute."

Further, Para 58(i) of the Guidance Note states "A school should charge depreciation according to the written down value method at rates recommended in Appendix I to the Guidance Note."

From review of the financial statements for the FY 2021-22, it has been noted that the depreciation on fixed assets have been provided on written down value method at the rates prescribed in the Income Tax Rules, 1962 which is not in accordance with the provisions of the Guidance Notes issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Therefore, the school is directed to apply the provisions outlined in the Guidance note mentioned above.

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 2022-23 amounting to **INR 22,80,43,164** out of which cash outflow for the FY 2022-23 is estimated to be **INR 23,68,69,742**. This results in deficit of **INR 88,26,578** after meeting all expenditures. The details are as follows:

Particulars	Amount (INR)
Cash and Bank balances as on 31.03.2022 as per Audited Financial Statement	1,01,25,983
Investments as on 31.03.2022 as per Audited Financial Statement	-
Liquid fund as on 31.03.2022	1,01,25,983
Add: Amount recoverable from society for amount incurred on building construction (Refer Financial Observation No.1)	4,96,32,637
Add: Amount recoverable from society for amount utilized for purchase of cars (Refer Financial Observation No.2)	10,56,060
Add: Amount recoverable from society for unreasonable expenditures (Refer Financial Observation No.3)	30,00,000
Add: Amount recoverable from society for utilization of school funds for capital expenditure (Refer Financial Observation No.4)	15,51,230
Add: Fees for FY 2021-22 as per Audited Financial Statements (Refer Note No. 1 Below)	15,31,68,400
Add: Other income for FY 2021-22 as per audited Financial Statements (Refer Note No. 1 Below)	4,33,929
Add: Additional income towards annual and development fee (Refer Note No. 1 Below)	61,55,062
Less: Arrears of annual charges & development fee of FY 2020-21 received in 2021-22 (Refer Note No. 1 Below)	1,73,76,649
Add: Impact of fee hike order of FY 2019-20 (15%) (Refer Note 2 below)	2,14,67,667
Total available funds for FY 2022-23	22,92,14,319
Less: Student Security Deposit	-
Less: Salary Reserve Fund	-
Less: Development Fund as per Audited Financial Statements of FY 31.03.2022	1,22,757
Less: Investment made with LIC against provision made for retirement benefits (Refer Financial Suggestion No. 5)	-
Less Depreciation reserve fund as on 31.03.2022 (Refer Note No. 3 Below)	-

Less: Balance of Transport Fund account as on 31.03.2022	71,505
Less: Balance of ATL Grant account as on 31.03.2022	9,76,894
Estimated Available Funds for FY 2022-23	22,80,43,164
Less: Budgeted Expenditure as provided by the school (Refer Note No. 4 to 6 Below)	23,68,69,742
Less: Arrears of 7th CPC (Refer Note 6 Below)	-
Estimated Deficit	88,26,578

Note 1: The Department vide its order No.F.No.PS/DE/2020/55 dated 18.04.2020 and order No.F.No.PS/DE/2020/3224-3231 dated 28.08.2020 issued guidelines regarding the chargeability of fees during the pandemic COVID 2019. The department in both the above-mentioned orders directed to the management of all the private schools not to collect any fee except the tuition fee irrespective of the fact whether running on the private land or government land allotted by DDA/other government land owing agencies and not to increase any fee in academic session 2020-21 till further direction.

Further, the department in pursuance of the order dated 31.05.2021 in WPC 7526/2020 of Single Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and interim order dated 07.06.2021 in LPA 184/2021 of the Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and to prevent the profiteering and commercialisation, directed to the management of all the petitioners private unaided recognised schools through its order No. F. No.DE.15(114)/PSB/2021/2165-2174 dated 01.07.2021:

- (i) *“to collect annual school fee (only all permitted heads of fees) from their students as fixed under the DSEAR, 1973 for the academic year 2020-21, but by providing deduction of 15% on that amount in lieu of unutilized facilities by the students during the relevant period of academic year 2020-21”*. And if the school has collected the fee in excess to the direction issued by the Hon'ble Court, the same shall be refunded to the parents or adjusted in the subsequent month of fee or refund to the parents.
- (ii) The amount so payable by the concerned students be paid in six equal monthly instalments w.e.f. 10.06.2021.
- (iii) The above arrangement will also be applicable with respect to collection of fees for academic session 2021-22.

From review of the audited financial statements for FY 2021-22 and based on the further information provided by the school, it has been noted that the school has reported 85% of the annual charges and development charges its audited financial statements of FY 2021-22. Therefore, the income collected by the school during the FY 2021-22 with respect to annual charges and development fee has been grossed up in order after deducting the income of FY 2020-21 to make comparative income with the FY 2022-23. The detailed calculation has been provided below.

Particulars	Income as per AFS of FY 2021-22	Income Considered in the Above Table	Remarks
Tuition Fee	10,08,82,914	10,08,82,914	
Annual Charges	1,97,80,134	2,32,70,746	The school recorded 85% of these income as per DoE order. Therefore, it has been grossed up in order to determine the normal income of the school.
Development fund	1,50,98,553	1,77,63,004	

Similarly, arrears of annual charges and development fund amounting to INR 1,73,76,649 has been excluded while calculating fund position of the school for academic session 2022-23.

Note 2: Calculation of impact of fee hike order of FY 2019-20:

Particulars	Amount
Total Fees for FY 2018-19 (Excluding Other Income)	19,08,23,704
Fees Hike Rate applicable from 01st July 2022 as per Order of FY 2019-20	15.00%
Amount of Fees Hike for 9 months (01.07.2022 to 31.03.2023)	2,14,67,667

Fees includes Tuition fees, annual charges & Development fee.

Note 3: As per the Duggal Committee report, there are four categories of fees that can be charged by a private unaided School. The first category of fee comprised of "Registration fee and all one Time Charges" levied at the time of admissions such as admission and caution money. The second category of fee comprises 'Tuition Fee' which is to be fixed to cover the standard cost of the establishment and to cover the 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 fourth category consist of all 'Earmarked Levies' for the services rendered by the school and be recovered only from the 'User' students. These charges are transport fee, swimming pool charges, Horse riding, tennis, midday meals etc. This recommendation has been considered by the Directorate while issuing order No. DE.15/Act/Duggal.com/203/99/23033-23980 dated 15.12.1999 and order No. F.DE./15(56)/Act/2009/778 dated 11.02.2009.

The purpose of each head of the fee has been defined and it is nowhere defined the usage of development fee or any other head of fee for investments against depreciation reserve fund.

Further, Clause 7 of order No. DE.15/Act/Duggal.com/203/99/23033-23980 dated 15.12.1999 and clause 14 of the order no F.DE./15(56)/Act/2009/778 dated 11.02.2009, *“development fee, not exceeding 15% of the total annual tuition fee may be charged for supplementing the resources for purchase, upgradation 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 a Depreciation Reserve Fund, equivalent to the depreciation charged in the revenue accounts and the collection under this head along with and income generated from the investment made out of this fund will be kept in a separately maintained Development Fund Account”*. Thus, the above direction provides for:

- Not to charge development fee for more than 15% of tuition fee.
- Development fee will be used for purchase, upgradation and replacement of furniture, fixtures, and equipment.
- Development fee will be treated as capital receipts.
- Depreciation reserve fund is to be maintained.

Thus, the creation of the depreciation reserve fund is a pre-condition for charging of development fee, as per above provisions and the decision of Hon'ble Supreme court in the case of Modern School Vs Union of India & Ors.: 2004(5) SCC 583. Even the Clause 7 of the above direction does not require to maintain any investments against depreciation reserve fund. Also, as per para 99 of Guidance Note-21 'Accounting by School' issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India states “Where the fund is meant for meeting capital expenditure, upon incurrence of the expenditure, the relevant asset account is debited which is depreciated as per the recommendations contained in this Guidance Note. Thereafter, the concerned restricted fund account is treated as deferred income, to the extent of the cost of the asset, and is transferred to the credit of the income and expenditure account in proportion to the depreciation charged every year.”

Accordingly, the depreciation reserve (that is to be created equivalent to the depreciation charged in the revenue account) is mere of an accounting head for the appropriate accounting treatment of depreciation in the books of account of the school in accordance with Guidance Note -21 issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Thus, there is no financial impact of depreciation reserve on the fund position of the school. Accordingly, the depreciation reserve fund has not been considered while deriving the fund position of the school.

Note 4: All budgeted expenditure of the school has been considered while deriving the fund position of the school except the following:

Particulars	Expenditure as per Budgeted of FY 2022-23	Disallowed	Remarks
Vedic Maths	42,91,800	42,91,800	Neither Income nor expenditure has been considered
Transportation Expenses	2,15,93,000	2,15,93,000	

Particulars	Expenditure as per Budgeted of FY 2022-23	Disallowed	Remarks
Salary - Teaching & Non-Teaching Staff	11,38,89,000	2,05,16,322	Amount proposed by the school is quite high in comparison to expenditure incurred by the school during FY 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22. Therefore, amount of INR 2,05,16,322 has not been considered while deriving the fund position of the school.
Educational Expenses	1,86,60,000	93,30,000	The school has introduced new head of expenditure without providing propose justification. However, considering the nature of expenditure INR 4,95,55,000 has not been considered while deriving the fund position of the school.
Staff Welfare	14,75,000	14,75,000	
Cambridge Board Examination	4,87,50,000	3,87,50,000	
Repairs & Maintenance - Electrical	89,69,000	20,00,000	Amount proposed by the school is quite high in comparison to expenditure incurred by the school during FY 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22. Therefore, amount of INR 60,00,000 has not been considered while deriving the fund position of the school.
Repairs & Maintenance- furniture & Fixture	67,15,000	40,00,000	
Salary Arrear	4,03,39,372	4,03,39,372	Considered separately
Salary Reserve	2,97,22,000	2,97,22,000	
Depreciation	1,09,56,875	1,09,56,875	Depreciation being non-cash expenditure, hence not considered in the funds availability position of the school.

Note 5: While evaluating the fee hike proposal, department considers that how much liquid funds would require the school for a particular session for smooth operation without compromising with the quality of education. Thus, while deriving the fund position of the school all legitimate expenditures revenue as well as capital in accordance with the provisions DESAR, 1973 and pronouncement of Courts judgment have been considered. Therefore, balance of the other current assets other and current liabilities has not been considered. Because it is clear that the current assets, loans and advances and current liabilities are cyclic in nature and the same have already been considered in the form of budgeted income and expenditure of the school in the earlier years. Thus, current

assets, loans and advances and current liabilities will always reflect in the financial statements at the end of the financial year.

Note 6: During the hearing with the school, the school has informed that the recommendations of 7th CPC have been implemented w.e.f. April, 2019. Further, 7th CPC arrears amounting to INR 5,36,16,628 have already been considered in the Directorate's Order No. F.DE. 15(808)/PSB/2022/ 5226-5230 dated 29.06.2022. Therefore, the salary arrears proposed by the school in its budget for academic session 2022-23 amounting to INR 4,03,39,372 have not considered in the funds availability position of the school. It is pertinent to state here that the school failed to justify the additional amount budgeted for salary arrears and therefore, the same may be not considered in the calculations of funds availability.

- ii. In view of the above examination, it is evident that the school has not adequate funds for meeting all the operational expenditures for the FY 2022-23. In this regard, the directions issued by the Directorate of Education vide circular no. 1978 dated 16.04.2010 states 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 the provisions of DSEA, 1973, DSER, 1973, guidelines, orders and circulars issued from time to time by this Directorate, the proposal of the school for the session 2022-23 have been evaluated and certain financial suggestions have been identified (appropriate financial impact has been taken on the fund position of the school) and certain procedural suggestions which were also noted (appropriate instruction against which have been given in this order) that the sufficient funds are not available with the school to carry out its operations for the academic session 2022-23. Accordingly, the fee increase proposal of the school is accepted.

AND WHEREAS, it is noticed that the school has incurred INR 5,52,39,927 incurred on construction of building, payment for cars and capital expenditures from school fund and in contravention to the provisions of DSEAR, 1973 and other orders issued by the departments from time to time. Therefore, the school is directed to recover the aforesaid amount from society/ management. The receipts along with copy of bank statements showing receipt of the above-mentioned amount should be submitted with DoE, in compliance of the same, within 30 days from the date of issue of this order. Non-compliance with this direction shall be viewed seriously as per the provision of DSEAR, 1973 without providing any further opportunity of being heard.

AND WHEREAS, considering the financial situation and existing deficiencies and keeping in view that salary and other employee's benefits can be paid to the teachers and staff

smoothly, the fee hike is allowed to the school with the suggestions for improvement. The school is hereby further directed that the additional income received on account of increase fee should be utilized at first instance only for payment of salary and salary arrears and submit the compliance report within 30 days from the date of issue of this order.

AND WHEREAS, it is relevant to mention charging of any arrears on account of fee for several months from the parents is not advisable, not only because of the additional sudden burden fall upon the parents/students but also as per the past experience, the benefit of such collected arrears is not passed to the teachers and staff in most of the cases as was observed by the Justice Anil Dev Singh Committee (JADSC) during the implementation of the 6th CPC. Keeping this in view, and exercising the powers conferred under Rule 43 of DSER, 1973, the Director (Education) has accepted the proposal submitted by the school and allowed an increase in fee by 6% to be effective from 01 April 2023.

AND WHEREAS, the fee proposal of the school alongwith relevant materials were put before the Director of Education for consideration and who after considering all the material on the record, and after considering the provisions of section 17 (3), 18(5), 24(1) of the DSEA, 1973 read with Rules 172, 173, 175 and 177 of the DSER, 1973 has found that funds are not available with the school for meeting financial implication for the academic session 2022-23. Hence, for smooth payment of salaries and other employee's benefit, the fee hike is required to the school.

AND WHEREAS, the act of the school of charging unwarranted fee or any other amount/fee under head other than the prescribed head of fee and accumulation of surplus fund thereof tantamount to profiteering and commercialization of education as well as charging of capitation fee in other form.

AND WHEREAS, the school is directed, henceforth to take necessary corrective steps on the financial and other suggestion noted during the above evaluation process and submit the compliance report within 30 days from the date of issue of the order to the D.D.E (PSB)

Accordingly, it is hereby conveyed that the proposal for fee hike of **VSPK International School (School ID - 1413209), Sector-13, Rohini, New Delhi - 110085** filled by the school in response to the Order No. F.DE.-15(40)/PSB/2019/4440-4412 dated 08.06.2022 for the academic session 2022-23, is accepted by the Director (Education) with the above conclusion and suggestions and the school is hereby allowed to increase the fee by 6% to be effective from 1 April, 2023.

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

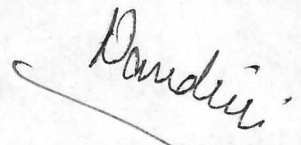
1. To increase the fee only by the prescribed percentage from the specified date.
2. To ensure payment of salary is made in accordance with the provision of Section 10(1) of the DSEA, 1973. Further, the scarcity of funds cannot be the reason for non-payment

of salary and other benefits admissible to the teachers/ staffs in accordance with section 10 (1) of the DSEA, 1973. Therefore, the Society running the school must ensure payment to teachers/ staffs accordingly.

3. 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 in accordance with the provisions of section 24(4) of Delhi School Education Act, 1973 and Delhi School Education Rules, 1973.

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


(Nandini Maharaj)
Additional Director of Education
(Private School Branch)
Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi

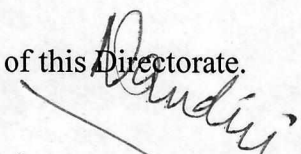
To
The Manager/ HoS
VSPK International School
(School ID - 1413209),
Sector-13, Rohini,
New Delhi - 110085

No. F.DE.15 (1431)/PSB/2023 / 5331 -5336

Dated: 13/06/23

Copy to:

1. P.S. to Principal Secretary (Education), Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi.
2. P.S. to Director (Education), Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi.
3. DDE (North West - B) ensure the compliance of the above order by the school management.
4. DE's nominee concerned
5. In-charge (I.T Cell) with the request to upload on the website of this Directorate.
6. Guard file.


(Nandini Maharaj)
Additional Director of Education
(Private School Branch)
Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi