

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

No. F.DE.15 (1353)/PSB/2023/ 3681-3686

Dated: 26/04/23

Order

WHEREAS, **Doon Public School (School ID - 1617185), B-2, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi - 110063** (hereinafter referred to as "**the School**"), run by the Abhinav Shiksha Sansthan (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 ensure that the proposals submitted by the schools for fee increase are justified or not, this Directorate has deployed teams of Chartered Accountants at HQ level who has evaluated the fee increase 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 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 08.04.2023. The school was also provided an opportunity to be heard on 10.04.2023 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/ (734)/PSB/2022/4538-4542 dated 13.06.2022 issued for FY 2019-20 were also discussed with the school and the school's submissions were 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 team of Chartered Accountants and the key suggestions noted for improvement by the school are hereunder:

A. Financial Suggestion for Improvements

1. Para 99 of Guidance Note-21 'Accounting by school' issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), relating to restricted fund, *"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"*.

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"*.

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, fixtures and equipment."* Thus, the development fee/funds should not be utilized for any other purposes other than those specified in Clause 14 of the Order dated 11.02.2009.

The DoE in its Order No. FD.E 15/ (734)/PSB/2022/4538-4542 dated 13.06.2022 issued to the school post evaluation of fee hike proposal for academic session 2019-20, noted that the school had utilized INR 1,20,14,884 on purchase of fixed assets out of development funds. However, no addition to the fixed assets have been done. Therefore, the amount spent was considered as deviation of the school funds. Accordingly, the school was directed to recover INR 1,20,14,884 from society which is still pending for recovery.

Further, on review of the audited financial statements for FY 2019-20, it was noted that the school has utilized development fund (*capital receipts*) for revenue for revenue expenditure. During the personal hearing, the school explained that due to paucity of funds with the school, it has utilized development funds for payment of salary and other day to day expenses. During the hearing the school was asked provided detailed working of utilization of development funds for payment of salary, but the school has not provided the complete details. Therefore, the school is directed to ensure the collection and utilization of development fee/ fund in accordance with above cited Clause 14 of the order dated 11.02.2009. As per Clause 14 of the order dated 11.02.2009, the

development fund/fee can only be used for purchase upgrade and replacement of furniture fixture and equipment not for other purposes.

Further, on review of the audited financial statements for 2021-22, it was noted that the school has received development fund of INR 1,37,99,386. However, the same has neither recognized in income and expenditure statement nor fixed assets have been purchased during the said financial year which indicates that the funds have been diverted by the school management. Accordingly, INR 1,37,99,386 collected by the school is considered as liable to be recovered from society/school management.

Similar observation has been noted in the earlier orders, however instead of maintaining and utilizing the development fund as per the guidelines issued the school has again diverted the development funds from the school.

Therefore, the total amount of INR 2,58,14,270 (INR 1,20,14,884 plus INR 1,37,99,386) is recoverable from the society being the responsibility of the society/ school management. And the same has been considered while deriving the fund position of the school with the direction to the school to recover this amount from society/ school management 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 providing further opportunity to be heard to the school.

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/ (734)/PSB/2022/4538-4542 dated 13.06.2022 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 18,66,412 on purchase of 2 cars down payments, repayment of loans and interest thereon. As the expenditure was incurred without complying with the above-mentioned provisions. Accordingly, the school was directed to recover INR 18,66,412 from society which is still pending for recovery.

Further, on review of audited financial statements for FY 2019-20 to 2021-22, noted that instead of recovering the aforesaid amount from the society school has made further payment of loan of INR 23,90,987 in FY 2019-20 to 2021-22.

Also, the school has purchased one new bus amounting to INR 20,13,000 in FY 2019-20 by obtaining the loan from axis bank and paid INR 9,18,780 on repayment and down payment of axis bank loan and interest thereon of INR 4,24,249. The above expenditures have been incurred by the school in contravention of the aforesaid provisions. Given the fact that the school neither implement the 7th CPC recommendation fully nor invested the amount in qualify assets for payment of retirement benefits in accordance with AS-15.

Therefore, the total expenditure of INR 56,00,428 (INR 18,66,412 plus INR 23,90,987 plus INR 7,980 plus INR 9,18,780 plus INR 4,24,249) incurred by the school by utilizing the school funds is recoverable from the society and has been included in 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 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.

Further, the budgeted expenditure of INR 7,25,295 for payment of interest on loans has not been considered while evaluating the fund position of the school.

3. Rule 59 of DSEAR, 1973 'Scheme of management of recognized school' states "*Regarding appointment and qualification of Manager 59(2)(i), the educational and other qualifications of the manager and his duties and responsibilities; the position of the manager viz-a-viz the managing committee:*

- (j) no employee of an aided school (other than the head of school) shall be appointed as the manager, the head of school may be appointed the manager of a school, whether aided or unaided.
- (k) appointment of the manager; the terms and conditions of his appointment; removal of the manager; filling up of casual vacancy in the office of the manager, duties, and responsibilities of the manager.
- (l) bills (including bills relating to the salaries and allowances of the teachers and non- teaching staff) shall be jointly signed by the manager and the head of the school; but where the head of the school is also the manager, such bills shall be signed jointly by the head of the school and another member of the managing committee specially authorized by that committee in this behalf.
- (m) that the administration and academic work of the school shall be attended to by the head of school, and except where the head of school is the manager, the manager shall not interfere with the day-to-day administration and academic work of the school.
- (r) manager shall not be at the same time the manager of any other school and a person shall not be at the same time the chairman of the managing committee and the manager.

As per clause 8 of the order No. DE.15/Act/Duggal.com/203/99/23033-23980 dated 15.12.1999 and clause No. 23 of order no- F.DE/15(56)/Act/ 2009/778 dated 11.02.2009, "*no amount whatsoever shall be transferred from the recognized unaided fund/ school fund to a society or trust or any other institution*". This was upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Modern School Vs. Union of India & Others.

The DoE in its Order No FD.E 15/ (734)/PSB/2022/4538-4542 dated 13.06.2022 issued to the school post evaluation of fee hike proposal for academic session 2019-20, noted that the school had paid remuneration to Administrative Director cum legal officer amounting to INR 54,21,732 during FY 2016-17 to 2018-19 The aforesaid expenditure was incurred without complying with the aforesaid provisions of DSER, 1973. Therefore, the school was directed to recover INR 54,21,732 from society which is still pending for recovery.



During FY 2022-23 the school had recovered INR 20,00,000 from the society. Accordingly, the aforesaid recovery has been reduced to INR 34,21,732. And INR 20,00,000 has been considered as available fund while calculating the fund position of the school.

Therefore, the remaining amount of INR 34,21,732 has been considered as fund available with the school in calculating the fund position of the school with the direction to the school to recover this amount from the society 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.

4. 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 7,21,90,353 (INR 4,39,97,406 for gratuity plus INR 2,81,92,947 for leave encashment.)

Further the school has not invested any amount in plan assets for payment of aforesaid retirement liability. Therefore, no amount has been considered while deriving the fund position of the school with the direction to the school to recognize the liability in the financials in accordance with the actuarial valuation report and invest the amount in plan assets within 30 days from the date of issue of this order.

B. Other Suggestion for Improvements

1. As per para 67 of the Guidance Note on Accounting by Schools issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, "The financial statements should disclose, inter alia, the historical cost of fixed assets."

On review of audited financial statements for the FY 2019-20, FY 2020-21, and FY 2021-22, it is noted that the school has presented its fixed assets purchased out of school funds at Written Down Value (WDV) which is not consistent with the Guidance Note. Thus, the school is hereby directed to comply with the requirements of Guidance Note issued by ICAI.

2. 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.

3. *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.



4. 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.

5. Para 99 of Guidance Note-21 '*Accounting by school*' issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), relating to restricted fund, "*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*".

Taking the cognisance from the above para, the school needs to create the 'Development Fund Utilisation Account' as deferred income to the extent of cost of assets purchased out of development fund and then this deferred income should be amortised in the proportion of the depreciation charged to revenue account. By following the aforesaid accounting treatment for development fund, development fund utilisation account and depreciation on assets purchased out of development fund as per para 99 of GN-21, the depreciation reserve fund would be mere an accounting head and school do not require creation of equivalent investments against the depreciation reserve.

On review of the audited financial statements of the school revealed that the school has not been following para 99 of the GN 21. Because upon incurrence of the capital expenditure out of the development fund, the school has not created any deferred income account and has not transferred any amount from deferred income to the credit of income and expenditure account.

Thus, the school is hereby directed to follow accounting treatment specified in para 99 of the Guidance Note 21 with respect to the collection and utilization of development fund and make necessary adjustment in the books of accounts.

6. 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 into 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.

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 14,87,40,746** out of which cash outflow for the FY 2022-23 is estimated to be **INR 15,30,67,407**. This results in deficit of **INR 43,26,661** after meeting all expenditures. The details are as follows:

Particulars	Amount (in INR)
Cash and Bank balances as on 31.03.2022 as per Audited Financial Statements	19,00,994
Investments as on 31.03.2022 as per Audited Financial Statements	16,97,186
Liquid fund as on 31.03.2022	35,98,180
Add: Amount recoverable from society for diversion of development fund (Refer Financial Suggestion No. 1)	2,58,14,270
Add: Amount recoverable from society for amount incurred on purchase of cars, buses and repayment of loans and interest (Refer Financial Suggestion No. 2)	56,00,428
Add: Recovery from Society for payment of remuneration to Administrative Director cum Legal officer (Refer Financial Suggestion No. 3)	54,21,732
Add: Fees for FY 2021-22 as per Audited Financial Statements (Refer Note No. 1 below)	10,85,23,275
Add: Other income for FY 2021-22 as per audited Financial Statements (Refer Note No. 1 below)	26,00,556
Less: Arrears of Development fund & annual charges for FY 2020-21 received in FY 2021-22 (Refer Note No. 1 below)	1,22,16,183
Add: Impact of fee hike order of FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 (13%) (Refer Note No. 2 below)	1,06,83,980
Total available funds for FY 2022-23	15,00,26,238
Less: FDR in joint name of CBSE, DDE & Manager	12,85,492
Less: Student Security Deposit	-
Less: Salary Reserve Fund	-
Less: Investment made with LIC against provision made for retirement benefits (Refer Financial Suggestion No. 4)	-
Less: Development Fund as per Audited Financial Statements of FY 31.03.2022	-
Less Depreciation reserve fund as on 31.03.2022 (Refer Note No. 3 Below)	-
Estimated Available Funds for FY 2022-23	14,87,40,746
Less: Budgeted Expenditure as provided by the school (Refer Note No. 4 and 5 Below)	14,75,19,581
Less: Salary Arrears (Refer Note No. 6 Below)	55,47,826
Estimated Deficit	43,26,661

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.

As the school has not provided details with respect to discount of 15% on the fees. Therefore, income reported under the financial statements of FY 2021-22 has been considered and the income collected by the school during the FY 2021-22 with respect to annual charges and development fee has not 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	8,67,39,465	8,67,39,465	
Annual Charges	39,11,074	39,11,074	
Development fund	56,27,503	56,27,503	

Arrears of annual charges and development fund amounting to INR 1,22,16,183 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 2018-19 and 2019-20:

Particulars	Amount (INR)
Fees as per audited FY 2018-19	10,95,79,283
Fees hike allowed to the school w.e.f. 1 July 2022	13.00%
Impact of fee hike for 9 months (01.07.2022 to 31.03.2023)	1,06,83,980

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 22-23	Disallowed	Remarks
Interest on loans	7,25,295	7,25,295	Refer financial observation no. 2
Salary Arrears	55,47,826	55,47,826	Considered separately

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: Budgeted salary arrears amounting to INR 55,47,826 has been considered while deriving the fund position.

- ii. In view of the above examination, it is evident that the school does not have 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 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 along with certain financial suggestions that were identified (appropriate financial impact has been taken on the fund position of the school) and certain procedural suggestions which were also noted (appropriate instructions 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 may be accepted.

AND WHEREAS, it is noticed that the school has incurred INR 3,48,36,430 incurred on, payment for cars and buses, payments to members of the society and diversion of development funds 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 5% to be effective from 01 April 2023.

AND WHEREAS, recommendation of the team of Chartered Accountants along with 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 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 this order to the D.D.E (PSB)

Accordingly, it is hereby conveyed that the proposal for fee hike of **Doon Public School (School ID - 1617185), B-2, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi - 110063** 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 5% 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:

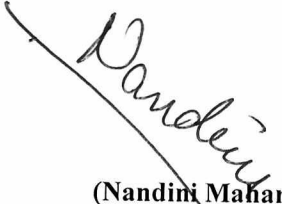
1. To increase the fee only by the prescribed percentage from the specified date.
2. To ensure payment of salary is made in accordance with the provision of Section 10(1) of the DSEA, 1973. Further, the scarcity of funds cannot be the reason for non-payment of salary and other benefits admissible to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

(P)

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

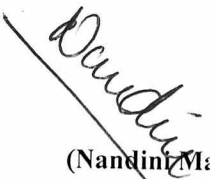
To
The Manager/ HoS
Doon Public School (School ID - 1617185),
B-2, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi - 110063

No. F.DE.15 (1353)/PSB/2023/368/- 3686

Dated: 26/04/23

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 (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