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Office of the Hon'ble Chairperson Committee for Fixation & Regulation of Fee of Private Schools, J&K (FFRC)

Order No: <u>173</u> -FFRC (FF) of 2023 Dated: <u>30</u> 109/2023

Fixation and Regulation of fee of International Delhi Public School Subject: Junior Sainik Colony, Jammu

International Delhi Public School Junior Sainik Colony Jammu submitted file for fixation and regulation of fee structure of the School, which has been registered in FFRC office under No. FFRC/FF/2023/Jmu/23.

The school has been established in April 2023 registered up to 8th class and presently running classes from pre-nursery to 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The record submitted by the school at the time of submission of file was examined. It was found that the school has submitted proposed budgeted fee and funds and proposed budgeted expenses.

The proposed income for 2023-24 is shown as Rs,270.45 Lacs and proposed expenses as 283.58 lacs.

In the proposed expenses the major heads shown are,

Salary; 155.00 lacs, Electric expenses; 12.00 lacs, IDPS society fee : 8.00 lacs, Franchise fee: 20.00 lacs, Rent ; 60.00 lacs, Electric expenses ; 12.00 lacs.

Some queries were raised regarding the above expenses as under;

a. Whether the rent assessment has been made by an authority designated by the government or same has been fixed by the school management, if such is the case, what procedure/parameters have been followed for fixing the rent amount?

b. For what purpose the school has entered into agreement with a franchiser? what type of support the school is getting from franchiser in improving the quality of education?

c. Is there any specific rule under which the school has to pay fee to IDPS society and what type of support the school is getting from the society?

The questionnaire was provided to the school vide letter dated 13-06-2023 for the response. The school management in its response submitted as under;

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- The School has entered into a rent agreement with Mr, Subash Choudhary and the rent agreement has been formulated by an authenticated source after doing an appropriate survey.
- The entire infrastructure. Fixtures, movable and immovable assets were provided by the owner and included in rent; the school is only responsible for providing the maintenance and upkeep of the building and the land.
- The school pays franchise fee of 3% of the revenue generated every year to the society as royalty charges.
- Along with the response dated 05-07-2023, the school has submitted report of valuation of property for rent purpose done by Varun and Associates, Engineers valuer, and estimators and the said firm has arrived at monthly rent value of Rs. 607815 per month after valuation of the property.

The perusal of response shows that the rent has not been assessed by an agency authorized by the government. The rent assessment has to be made by a government agency or an agency authorized by the government.

As per the MOU, the MOU fee of Rs.20.00 lac is one time non-refundable fee to be paid at the time of execution of MOU. The school has not provided the justification as to how burden of an expenditure that has to be paid when the school is being established be transferred to a student who is yet to be enrolled in the school.

Similarly in case of franchise fee CBSE bylaw 15.1 under heading franchise Schools provides that "A school seeking affiliation or affiliated to Board may enter into an agreement with a franchiser for a limited purpose of getting academic support, academic guidance, training of manpower and extra and co-curricular activities only." The school has kept provision of 20.00 lacs for franchise fee but not provided a reasonable justification.

There is no mention of IDPS society fee in the agreement and school has kept provision of Rs.8.00 lacs for the said purpose.

In order to get clarification regarding the issues raised supra the school management was provided opportunity of being heard both at Srinagar and Jammu more than once.

After being heard the school management came with another set of record including revised proposed budgeted income and expenditure to justify there earlier submissions. The same was examined and observations made as under;

The proposed income is shown as Rs, 263.9 Lacs and proposed expenses as 313.48 lacs.

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Salary; **157.00 lacs**, IDPS society fee: **0**, Franchise fee: **7.90 lacs**, Smart Board LED; **24.00lacs**, Rent vehicle parking; **4 lacs**, Electric expenses; **12.00 lacs**.

In earlier record submitted with file in May 2023 the school has shown 27 teaching staff only but in latest statement the number has gone to 47. The roll of the school at the time of file submission was 538 and now it is 552, only 14 students have been added since May 2023 and 20 teachers have been employed since then. This has been justified by creating round 25 sections for 552 students.

In latest proposed budgeted expenses statement the provision of Franchise fee has been reduced to 7.90 lacs from earlier 20.00 lacs.

Surprisingly head IDPS Society fee in earlier proposed budgeted expenses for which Rs 8.00 lac provision was created has been omitted from latest proposed budgeted expenses statement.

The statements are contradictory and the proposed budgeted income and expenditure details do not provide actual financial health of the institution. It can only be assessed on the basis of actual audited financial statements which are not available in the present case.

Since it is the mandate of Committee to fix and regulate the fee, the school having fixed the fee on its own cannot be justified and has to be regulated. In order to fix and regulate the fee structure of the school, tentatively expenses which prima facie appear genuine are considered. The amount of rent is being considered tentatively till the management get the same assessed by a government agency or an agency authorized by the government.

The details of the Fee structure provided by the school management are as under;

Fee charged by the school at present, fixed by the school management on its

own.

Class	Annual Fee	Tuition Fee
Pre-Nursery	15000	3000
Nursery	15000	3000
LKG	15000	3000
UKG	15000	3000
1 <sup>st</sup>	16000	3000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	16000	3000

## Break up of annual fee submitted by the school.

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S. No	Fee head	Kindergarten	Juniors	Projected Expenditure as per statement submitted	Actual expenses per student	Remarks
01	Security services	2000	2000	1.30 lacs	241	The fee
02	Examination	2000	2000	4.00lacs	743	charged per
03	Worksheets	1000	1200	Not available		student under various heads
04	Medical	500	500	25000	46	corresponding
05	IT Development	500	500	Not available		to expenditure per student is
06	Generator & electricity Maintenance+ bills	2500	2500	12.00	2230	is exorbitant
07	Library & Labs	500	500	Not available		
08	Building & Sports areas maintenance	2000	2000	2.00	371	1
09	EMI's	1000	1000	Not available		
10	Interests-Expenses	1000	1000	Not available		
11	Workshop and Counselling sessions	500	1000	Not available		
12	Water bills	500	800	1.00 lacs.	185	-
13	Telecommunication and internet expenses	500	500	1.00 lacs	185	
14	Lease rent.	500	500	Not available		
Tota	al	15000	16000	2155000		

## Proposed Fee Structure of the School for 2023-24

Class	Annual Fee	Tuition Fee	
Pre-Nursery	15000	3600	
Nursery	15000	3600	
LKG	15000	3800	
UKG	15000	3800	
1 <sup>st</sup>	16000	3800	Nor
2 <sup>nd</sup>	16000	3800	X
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Taking observations supra and record produced and the justification given by the School Management for fixation and regulation of fee structure of the School into consideration in accordance with norms set out in various judgments and prescribed by Statute and Statutory Rules notified vide S.O. 233 dated 10.05.2022. On due consideration of the entire conspectus of the school record and acknowledged parameters and settled norms for regulating the fee structure of the School, material produced by the School Management, taking into account the proposed expenses which prima facie appears genuine and excluding expenses like IDPS Society fee, Franchise fee, Expenditure on LED Boards being Capital expenditure and considering genuine electric expenses which otherwise are exorbitant. The Committee finds it just and proper to fix and regulate the fee structure of the school from Pre-nursery to class 2<sup>nd</sup> for the year 2023-24. The fixation and regulation of fee structure for 2024-25 will be considered after the school submits audited financial statement for the year 2022-23. The annual fee shall include all components including camps/tours etc. (The fee structure shall have prospective effect).

Class	Annual Fee	Tuition Fee
Pre-Nursery	10000	2600
Nursery	10000	2600
LKG	10000	2600
UKG	10000	2600
1 <sup>st</sup>	10000	2700
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10000	2700

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The aforesaid exercise has been undertaken and fee structure regulated in a manner that excluded the commercialization and profiteering of education completely.

An educational institution is being set-up primarily to impart quality education to the students. The school management shall advert its attention and give priority to imparting quality education to the students.

The School Management shall publish only FFRC orders about fee structure and Government Education Department's notices in newspapers. No publicity through advertisement shall be made about School, same being not a business unit.

Charging and collecting of Admission Fee is prohibited by statute. The school management is prohibited from charging and collecting Admission Fee from the students.

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School Management shall not sell uniforms and books in the school premises. The students will be at liberty to purchase books and uniforms at the place of their choice.

Any land/building/vehicle purchased, or building constructed from out of School Funds, in law will be property of School and shall vest in School.

School Funds have to remain in School Corpus and have not to be transferred to any other account excepting the school account.

The School Management shall maintain an account of School Funds (Fee etc.) in a Schedule Bank, which shall be operated by a person(s) authorized by School Management. Record about all the expenses/expenditures shall be maintained with receipts

All types of fees shall remain in School account and no amount shall be paid or transferred to Trust/ Association of Persons (AoP)/ Body of Individuals (BoI).

The School management is directed not to charge any fee from the students other than the fee approved by the Committee. The School management shall abide by the section 20E(1) of Jammu and Kashmir School Education Act amended from time to time in charging the school fee.

The Section 20 E (1) provides that "Private schools shall not charge any fee from the students or guardians, except tuition fee, annual fee, transport fee and voluntary special purpose fee such as the picnic, tour and excursions, etc. completely voluntary in nature or any other fee as may be approved by the Committee for Fixation and Regulation of Fee of Private Schools after following the procedure prescribed."

The School management is also directed not charge in any manner, any other fee including admission fee/Security deposit/refundable fee/ or any amount, by whatever name called than the fee mentioned in Section 20 E (1).

The School management is further directed not to make any future enhancement in fee structure under any head without permission of the Committee.

The School management is also directed not to fix fee structure of classes 3<sup>rd</sup> onwards as and when started on its own without approval of the Committee.

Realization of Annual Fee from the students shall be subject to providing the facilities to students and actual expenditure of the school on relevant overheads.

The School management shall display this approved fee structure on School notice board, upload it on School website and publish the same in local daily newspapers.

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The fee structure approved is subject to review in case the committee at any stage finds that the school management has either concealed or provided any wrong information/data desired as per the proforma for fixation and regulation of fee.

Non-compliance will attract penal action under law.

Mr. Showkat Ahmad Pir (CA) (Member FFRC)

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Smt. Manisha Sarin, JKAS (Secretary JK BOSE) (Member FFRC)

Mr. Tassaduq Hussain Mir, JKAS Director School Education Kashmir (Member FFRC)

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Sh. Alok Kumar, (IRS) Principal Secretary to Govt. School Education Department (Member Secretary FFRC)

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Justice Sunil Hali (Former Judge) Chairperson Committee for Fixation & Regulation Of Fee of Private Schools J&K (FFRC) No. FFRC/FF/2023/pm/23

Dated: - 30 / 09 /2023

Copy to:-

- 1. Director School Education Jammu/Kashmir for information and n/a;
- 2. Secretary J&K Board of School Education (Member FFRC) for information;
- 3. Private Secretary to Principal Secretary to Government School Education Department for information of the Principal Secretary(Member Secretary FFRC);
- 5. Principal of concerned school, for compliance;

6. I/C Website for uploading the same on official website;7. Office file.