FEE REGULATORY COMMITTEE (SELF FINANCED SCHOOL) AHMEDABAD ZONE, AHMEDABAD

OFFICE ADDRESS :- DISTRICT INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING, GOTA – OGNAJ ROAD, GOTA, AHMEDABAD.

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NO. FRC/A'BAD ZONE/MEHSANA/439/18-19/14852-54

DATE: 27.11.2018

Dispatch date: <u>03/12/2018</u>

READ:-

- 1) Proposal submitted by Divine Child School, Amipura, Near Sankus Water Park, Mehsana along with relevant documents for Pre Primary, Lower Primary (Std. 1 to 5), Upper Primary (Std. 6 to 8), Secondary and Higher Secondary (CBSE English Medium) for the academic year 2017-18.
- 2) Provisional order passed by Fee Regulatory Committee for academic year 2017-18 on 13.8.2018
- 3) Objections raised by the school management on 25.8.2018
- 4) Notice of Hearing of objections issued on 28.8.2018 fixing the hearing on 10.9.2018
- 5) Further details were filed on 10.9.2018 along with covering letter.

FINAL ORDER DATE: 27.11.2018

- 1. Divine Child School, Amipura, Near Sankus Water Park, Mehsana has submitted its proposal for fixation of fees structure for the academic year 2017-18 for Pre Primary, Lower Primary (Std. 1 to 5), Upper Primary (Std. 6 to 8), Secondary and Higher Secondary (CBSE English Medium) along with relevant documents.
- 2. After considering the said proposal along with the documents attached therewith, the committee has passed the provisional order dated 13.8.2018 determining the provisional fees for Pre Primary, Lower Primary (Std. 1 to 5), Upper Primary (Std. 6 to 8), Secondary and Higher Secondary (CBSE English Medium) for the academic year 2017-18.
- 3. Being aggrieved by the said order, the school has raised its objections vide its letter dated 25.8.2018 stating therein that the fees proposed by the school

have been substantially reduced. It is further stated that the fees were proposed for the academic year 2017-18 keeping into consideration the deficit in the year 2017-18 and there was huge deficit in 2017-18. The school has no other income as development cost, so fee proposed also includes 15% surplus. It is further stated that the total income received by the school in the year 2017-18 was Rs.9,28,10,635/- as school fees and other income from registration fees, bank interest and miscellaneous income are Rs.12,82,248/-. The expenses of the trust to run the school are Rs.14,23,79,025/-. The school provides education at very subsidised rate to children of all teaching, non teaching staff and to the needy persons who approach the school for the scholarship. The income generated from those students is very low leading to a major reduction in a revenue of Rs.85,44,000/-. The revenue deficit from one RTE student is Rs.58,700/-. It is further stated that all the expenses mentioned in the provisional order either the infrastructure cost, maintenance, utilities, staff training and welfare are very basic to give student a conducive environment in education. It is further submitted that the fees proposed by the school are in the terms of the formula of cost plus + reasonable surplus. It is also stated that with determined provisional fees for 2017-18 along with deficit of the same year the school would be incurring losses even in future as fee rise is given only 5% every year. It is also requested to indicate the expenditure heads disallowed in the proposed fees for the knowledge of the school management as they would discuss with parents and inform that the expenses are disallowed and hence the services to be discontinued from the school. The request was made to reconsider and fix the reasonable fees in the interest of education of the school.

4. On consideration of the said objections, the committee has issued the notice of hearing of objections on 28.8.2018 fixing the date of hearing on 10.9.2018. On receipt of the notice, the Ld. Representatives appeared for the school and filed various details along with covering letter dated 10.9.2018. As per the details furnished by the school, it appears that right from 2013-14, the school has increased fees of all standards ranging between 5% to 11%. In pre primary, the school was charging fees for the academic year 2013-14 at Rs.43,650/- which were increased to Rs.58,800/- in 2017-18. In primary standard, the school was charging fees for the year 2013-14 at Rs.53,630/which were increased to Rs.69,240/- in 2017-18. In upper primary standard, the school was charging fees for the year 2013-14 at Rs.62,650/- which were increased to Rs.81,200/- in 2017-18. In secondary standard, the school was charging fees for the year 2013-14 at Rs.68,550/- which were increased to Rs.90,800/- in 2017-18. In Higher Secondary standard, the school was charging fees for the year 2013-14 at Rs.79,350/- which were increased to Rs.94,350/- in 2017-18. Over and above these fees, the school has collected

admission fees of Rs.33,67,000/- in 2017-18 and since there are in all 1217 students, the admission fees per student would come to Rs.2,766.64. The school has further submitted that the total deficit in 2017-18 was Rs.3,11,96,741/-. In a separate box file submitted by the school, it appears that the school has provided detailed breakup ledger and invoices for miscellaneous expenses incurred by the school as well as the trust separately. The school has also provided details of maintenance expenses duly supported by ledger and invoices. Similarly detailed justification was given for building renovation expenses duly supported by the ledger and invoices. The school has also provided separately the details of expenses relating to teachers training and staff welfare and school activities.

- The committee has also received certain complaints with regard to higher fees charged by the school. Considering the said complaints, the committee has issued a letter dated 27.4.2018 to the school stating therein that the school was asking for postdated cheques from the student towards fees for the entire year and the school has not submitted the proposal to the committee till the said date. In response to the said letter, a reply was given by the principal of the school on 2.5.2018 stating there in that the school accepts the post dated cheques from the students only with a view to provide convenience to the parents from having to attend the school time and again for payment of fees. Moreover, it was never made mandatory for any parent to deposit the post dated cheques for entire year. A complaint was made to the effect that the school was insisting for more fees than the fees charged in earlier years. The school is pressurizing the parents to make the payment of fees as demanded by the school. As such most of these complaints were for the academic year 2018-19. The committee is however granting 5% rise only in the fees for the academic year 2018-19.
- 6. The committee has considered the details filed and submissions made on behalf of the school. The committee has also taken into consideration certain complaints received from the parents. As a matter of fact, while passing the provision all order the committee has indicated certain expenses which are of excessive and not directly related to the educational activities. Though the school has tried to explain these issues raised by the committee in its provisional order. However, mere production of vouchers, invoices or extracts from ledger do not justify inevitability of these expenses for the purpose of carrying on educational activities smoothly. The school has claimed consultancy and provisional charges of Rs.13,68,000/-, expenditure of maintenance of Rs.62,06,324/- which inter alia includes swimming pool maintenance of Rs.6,00,000/- and garden expenses of Rs.30,00,000/-. The school has claimed teacher training expenses of Rs.12,60,134/-, staff welfare

expenses of Rs.39,14,000/- lease expenses of Rs.1,44,00,000/-, movable property rent expenses of Rs.48,00,000/-, housekeeping expenses of Rs.36,00,000/-. Over and above all these expenses, the school has also claimed depreciation of Rs.1,32,84,119/-. Keeping all these expenses in mind, the committee has determined the provisional fees for the academic year 2017-18. Not only this, the committee has also taken into consideration, the actual fees collected by the school for the academic year 2017-18. The fees proposed by the school are much higher than the fees actually collected.

7. Taking into consideration all the above aspects along with the explanation furnished by the school, the committee hereby determines the final fees for the academic year 2017-18 as under:

Section	Fees proposed by the school for academic year 2017-18	Provisional Fees determined by the committee for academic year 2017-18	Final Fees determined by the committee for academic year 2017-18
Pre Primary	125400	36500	52000
Primary (Std. 1 to 5)	125900	63000	66000
Upper Primary (Std. 6 to 8)	125900	66000	75000
Secondary	138000	74000	80000
Higher Secondary	138000	86000	86000

Terms and conditions:

- 1. The school is not permitted to collect fees more than fees determined for the year 2017-18.
- 2. The school is permitted to charge fees for the academic year 2018-19 and 2019-20 by giving rise of 5% in the final fees determined by the committee for the year 2017-18.
- 3. The school is not permitted to collect fees under any other head including under the head of Admission Fees or any other fees and thereby causing extra burden on the students.
- 4. If the school has collected more fees than the fees finally determined by the committee for the academic year 2017-18, the same shall either be refunded to the students or the school shall make adjustment of such excess fees against the fees to be collected for the remaining quarters of 2018-19.
- 5. Any violation of this order shall be dealt with by the Committee in accordance with law, on being brought to the notice of the Committee by any aggrieved party.
- 6. If the school management has any grievance against the final fees determined by the committee, it shall have a right to file revision before the Fees Revision

Committee within three weeks from the date of receipt of the order and after making payment of Rs.10,000/- by way of filing fees.

7. The school is directed to place the order determining final fees on its notice board as well as on its website.

Sd/-(JUSTICE K. A. PUJ) Chairman

Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-
(D. V. Buch)	(V. M. Patel)	(N.K.Patel)	(R. C. Raval)
Member	Member	Member	Member

To,
THE PRINCIPAL,
DIVINE CHILD SCHOOL,
AMIPURA, NEAR SANKUS WATER PARK,
MEHSANA

Copy to:

- 1. District Education Officer, Mehsana
- 2. District Primary Education Officer, Mehsana for necessary action

સીફ કૉ-ઓડીનેટર ફી નિયમન સમિની અમદાવાદ ઝોન અને જિલ્લા શિક્ષણા હિકારી અમદાવાદ