

Notice: Waiver in school fees

Date: 10-11-2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This is to notify to all the parents/guardians of the students of our School that the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta by an order dated 13.10.2020 passed in WPA No. 5890 of 2020 issued several directions in respect of payment of fees to Schools in West Bengal. In the said order it was recorded that the said order was passed as an extraordinary step in an unforeseen situation to somewhat relieve the parents and guardians of students of their financial burden in the economic distress brought about by the pandemic. In the said order dated October 13, 2020 the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court specifically observed that the said directions were issued as a one-time measure necessitated by the present unprecedented situation. However, in direction no. vii contained in paragraph 61 of the said order dated October 13, 2020, a request was made to the parents and guardians of students not to avail of the reduction in schools fees, if their financial situation does not merit the reduction.

Challenging the said order of Hon'ble High Court dated October 13, 2020 several schools filed Special Leave Petitions in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and by an order dated October 28, 2020 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India granted permissions to file the said Special Leave Petitions, issued notices and granted stay of directions nos. viii to xvi contained in para 61 of the order of the Hon'ble High Court.

Considering the financial hardship that might have caused due to pandemic, long before the said order passed by the Hon'ble High Court, management of our School totally waived some of the fees and also reduced some fees to a great extent. The benefit of the said waiver and reduction was extended to all the parents and guardians of the students of the School. A large majority of guardians and parents have cleared their fees well within due date(s) resulting in the School receiving almost 80% of the fees from April-October, 2020. This has enabled the School to meet its various financial commitments on account of operational and establishment cost, administrative cost, finance cost and other costs and expenses and in turn motivated the teachers to upskill themselves and deliver quality education through the online mode (both synchronous and asynchronous) to all of our students.

A few parents/guardians who could not make payment of fees have been granted time and provided with the facility of paying the dues in a staggered manner or in installments without any late fine.

Computer studies and Co-scholastic activities such as Art and Craft, Vocal Music, Physical Education and intra school team work related activities etc. are integral part of the curriculum. The School has been conducting these classes online, some synchronous and other asynchronous, along with the scholastic subjects. Regular assessments are also being conducted online during

this period. The School has thus continued to provide such facilities and/or services to the students, which are essential for and an integral part of the curriculum and holistic development.

The School in compliance with the operational part of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court and pending the final adjudication of the appeals in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, would like to inform the parents/guardians about various decisions taken by it with respect to school fee, in relation to their wards, as mentioned below. Kindly note that these decisions are subject to the result of the pending proceedings before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and also any other order that may be passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta:

- 1) In terms of the judgment and order dated October 13, 2020 of the Hon'ble High Court under appeal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, and subject to the outcome of the appeal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and as may be ordered therein, an option is hereby given to the Parents/Guardians of students of the School to pay reduced academic fees from April 2020.
- 2) In terms of the direction of the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court, parents/guardians of the students are requested not to avail of the reduction in fees as laid down above if their financial situation does not merit such reduction. This will also help and enable the School to continue to run and manage its affairs smoothly and provide quality education without any interruption.
- 3) If any parent/guardian opts to get the benefit of reduction of fees as stated in para 1 above, he/she is required to submit a written option in the office of the School latest by 30th November, 2020. With the name, class and section of their ward. Said option can be submitted in the office of the School on any working day from Monday to Friday, between 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Be it noted that for availing the said benefit of reduction of fees parents/guardians are also required to make the payment of the reduced amount of fees upto the month of November, 2020 as mentioned in para 1 above latest by 30.11.2020.
- 4) As per order of the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court, various directions as contained in the said order dated October 13, 2020 shall continue till physical functioning of the School resumes in the normal course. The said order is subject to further order(s) being passed by the Hon'ble High Court or the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- 5) Parents/Guardians who have already paid fee at the existing rate and wish to obtain the reduction in the manner as indicated above, will not be entitled to any refund of the fees already paid from April-October 2020. However, the excess amount paid by them after giving effect of the order of Hon'ble High Court will be adjusted against payment of fees for the subsequent period/months of the current financial year, subject to their agreeing otherwise, for which intimation will be given by the School later, and subject to the outcome of the appeal before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

- 6) As per direction of the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court, the school fees, at the existing or reduced amount as applicable, for the period commencing from April 1, 2020 up to November 30, 2020 is required to be paid by all parents/guardians by November 30, 2020. In case the fees for the said period are not paid within 30th November 2020 the School, in terms of the order of Hon'ble High Court, shall be entitled at its discretion to debar any students from attending classes (both online and physical, as the case may be) from 8th December 2020 onwards and withdraw all other facilities which are currently being availed by them.

The order of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta dated October 13, 2020 and the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28th October, 2020 are available on the website of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India respectively and parents/guardians may access the same for their own understanding of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Regards,

DR. BHAKTA SUNDAR SHARMA
PRINCIPAL