



# SOUTH POINT SCHOOL

An OHSAS 18001 : 2007 Certified Institution

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to clear some misunderstandings that seem to exist in Guardians vis-à-vis the notice circulated on January 27, 2020 regarding the proposed fee structure for the Academic Session 2020-21. Before we begin to do that, it is necessary to reiterate that the School respects each of its stakeholders which include both the Guardians and Members of Staff. It also appreciates that any deviation from the ordinary can be a source of discomfort and unhappiness. At the same time, we also expect each stakeholder to look at the issue in hand from everyone's point of view.

The School has tried to answer some doubts below and has included data for both South Point School and South Point High School for the same:

## 1. Application of ROPA 2019 to this School

This School, as well as other private recognised schools, is required to pay its members of staff at a rate not lower than the State Government pay structure. It is stated clearly in the NOC received from the State Education Department and is a requirement of CBSE as well as the RTE Act and Rules framed thereunder.

## 2. Reasons for substantial fee enhancement

The School has always striven to keep its fee lower than schools of comparable stature as it respects its underlying ethos of catering to the aspirations of the middle class. It has never unduly burdened the guardians when it is not required to charge extra from them, based on mere assumptions.

With the announcement of ROPA 2019, the School meticulously worked on the implementation of the same, it reviewed avenues of reducing the expenditure on various heads, while keeping in mind its statutory obligations. It may be noted that more than 90% of the yearly revenue expenses of the School goes in payment to and for its staff members. The additional employee-related expenses due to yearly increments and ROPA for the year 2020-21 for both SPS and SPHS combined has been calculated at Rs. 13.63 crores. Based on the above, the fee structure of 2020-21 was framed. Though ROPA 2019 has been notified for implementation from the month of January 2020, the School did not bring in a fee hike from the month of January 2020, as it respected the fact that guardians would be greatly inconvenienced by a mid-session hike. The School has gone to the extent of reviewing its recruitment policy and conditions of service in order to bring down costs, without compromising on the academic excellence it is held synonymous with.

The fee hike was deliberated upon extensively and an advance intimation of more than two months was given to all guardians via the notice dated January 27, 2020.

## 3. Will the School enhance fee at this rate every year?

NO. The School last increased its fee substantially in the year 2009 to accommodate the financial demands of ROPA 2009 as notified by the State Government then. The fee hike then was more than 30%. It can be categorically stated that an unusual fee hike is not foreseen in the near future.

#### **4. Does South Point need to rely upon the fee raised from the guardians?**

Yes. The School is completely dependent on the fee paid by the guardians as it has no other source of income. It falls under the category of a private unaided school.

#### **5. New Campus funding**

The Priyamvada Birla Campus of South Point, construction of which is presently under way, has a total capital outlay projected at nearly Rs. 350 crores. This is being funded by South Point Education Society as well as by relying on contributions from the MP Birla Group. The proposed fee increase is not to fund this project nor has the School charged or plans to charge present or prospective guardians any special fee for the same, unlike certain other institutions in the city which are going in for expansion.

#### **6. Bus fee**

The School buses need to be properly maintained as well as replaced from time to time and it is common knowledge that the fuel costs have been on the rise constantly. The School also is concerned about the safety and security of the children who use this service. It has an additional lady security personnel in each bus, besides using technology like GPS tracking, CCTV etc. for safety issues in the junior school. Bus facility is an optional service and may not be availed by parents in case found cost ineffective. We feel it is still a better option than many pool car services.

It may not be out of place to mention here that parents may like to compare the bus fee of other schools with ours. The option of a one way service also exists, keeping in mind the convenience of the guardians.

#### **7. School facilities**

It is necessary to point out that regular maintenance work is carried out in the two buildings. A well laid out fire fighting system was introduced to combat any fire hazard. In order to be compliant with the OHSAS 18001:2007 requirements, various other infrastructural up-gradation have been done over the years. Such improvements are continuous in the School although it may not be evident to outsiders and at times even to the parents and guardians.

The School Libraries are well stocked and its present laboratories at the High School are appreciated by experts in the field. Classes II to VIII have Smart Classes to make their learning enjoyable. Tablet-based adaptive Mathematics learning portal is used in Classes II to IV through Wifi in School (there have been some technical glitches in this in the past few months, which have now been rectified).

Extra staff from external agencies have been recruited to ensure that the classrooms, toilets and corridors are cleaned thoroughly, without increasing the expenses too much. It is true that the number of toilets often proves inadequate vis-à-vis the number of students. Cleaning staff is present to continuously clean the toilets. Some new toilets have also been built as far as possible in the present premises. You will appreciate that at certain times of the day, especially during the tiffin break, owing to high usage the service levels may not be fully to everyone's satisfaction. But it has been our constant endeavour to provide hygienic conditions to our children.

The School recruits qualified staff as per requirement and pays them accordingly. The teachers and staff relentlessly strive to maintain the academic standard of the School and the Board results are testimony to the fact. The School continuously provides in-service trainings to its teachers to keep them abreast of the current teaching methodologies and practices.

The School besides being concerned about the safety and security of all its stake holders, is concerned about the mental health of its students. Free counselling service is offered to students in need of it, as well as, to parents at times. The School also employs special educators to support the pupils with learning disabilities, without any extra payment being charged for the same. Concessions are provided in fees to those in need of the same. The School employs full time qualified nurses to attend to students with sudden bouts of illness or any injury.

Our security and other support staff work tirelessly to ensure the safety of your children. The functioning of the School machinery would not be possible without our office staff, stationed from the reception to the different important areas of the School including the library, different laboratories, records, accounts etc. Verification of documents even at a stage when the student is studying in an institute of higher learning or seeking a job in a reputed company, would not be possible without their support.

South Point School employs 201 teaching staff, both full time and part time whereas the High School has 264 staff engaged in teaching and instructional work, both full and part time. Though the number of students in each section remains high due to legacy reasons, the teacher student ratio is 1:20 in SPHS and 1: 30 in SPS.

The School provides a number of Co-Curricular activities as part of the curriculum and as optional Saturday Club offerings, both at SPS and SPHS and guardians are well aware of the same. It may not be out of place to mention that no extra fee is charged for the CCA options made available to the students as part of the curriculum.

Most importantly, the School actively promotes Sports and other Art forms. When the media carries stories of brilliance of our present and past students, it adds value to each student. We regularly communicate with our parents using multiple media and keep them abreast of all developments.

The present School buildings were built in the 1970s or earlier, i.e., more than 50 years ago. After a point in time, it has now become evident that more modern facilities cannot be further provided in the present buildings, hence the endeavour to build the state of the art new campus to fulfil all the demands a new age guardian may have.

## **8. Review of fee structure for 2020-21**

The School follows a policy of transparency. It has worked out its expenses to the last decimal and only then informed the guardians about the revision in fee, after extensive discussions and considerations. Hence a general rollback is not possible. But we have taken up the concerns expressed by guardians on the issue seriously. We have deliberated on a few possible concessions in the fee policies for the session 2020-21 to address issues raised by a section of guardians lately.

These decisions are given below:

### **a. Rebate to parents with more than one child studying in SPS/SPHS**

The School appreciates the fact that parents having two or more children studying in South Point School and /or South Point High School may get additionally impacted by the increase in fees for the year 2020-21. Therefore, it has been decided that for such parents, a rebate of 10% will be given on the tuition fees for the youngest child studying in either SPS or SPHS, however such rebate will be available to them only for the academic year 2020-21 and for the subsequent years, they will have to pay the full amount of applicable fees. This rebate will only be available to such guardians who are not enjoying any other form of freship from the school for any child. To avail such a rebate, parents have to make an application to the school in the prescribed format, details of which will be intimated in due course.

**b. Reduction of burden in the April-May 2020 fee block**

We understand that there are various additional expenses to be borne by parents in the beginning of the new academic year. We have already introduced a few years back the practice of charging only monthly fees and have done away with charging annual fee / session fee etc. Thus, in order to reduce the burden on parents in the beginning of the year, fees for April and May 2020 will not be collected in one single block of bi-monthly fees as is our usual practice, but will be collected separately in the months of April and May 2020. From June 2020, we will go back to our usual bi-monthly collection cycle.

**c. Fine on late payment of fee**

We at times get grievances from parents about the late fine charged by the School on payment after the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month of collection. As a special gesture, the School will waive off the late fine applicable for the period from 16<sup>th</sup> to the end of the first month of the bi-monthly fee collection block for the year 2020-21. However, the earlier scale of fine will be applicable for late payment of fees thereafter. Fee collection date by ECS/NACH will remain as usual.

We hope the clarifications given above will go a long way to continue the mutual trust that is the foundation of a strong parent-school partnership. Just as the School stands with the parents in ensuring the best for their child, we are confident the parents will also stand with the school and help it discharge its responsibilities in a cordial environment.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

(D K CHADDA)  
Principal

05.02.2020