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Code for primary schools may come into force in June

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Mumbai: The civic education committee on Tuesday framed a code of conduct for primary schools in Mumbai. The city has 401 BMC-aided and 545 unaided primary schools. More than five lakh children study in these schools

The new rules referred to as the Primary School Code is likely to come into effect from June after it is cleared by the civic general body and the state government.

Civic education committee chairperson Ravindra Waikar said the 110-page code of conduct book has laid down procedures for appointing teachers, admitting students, prescribing fees and syllabus, maintaining school records and punishing those who violate the rules. "Since 1963, there has been a demand to have a code of conduct for primary schools," he stated. There is already a code of conduct for secondary schools.

A significant rule in the book is a fine of upto Rs 20,000 for BMC-aided

schools which charge more than Rs 25 for admission forms. "Admission forms can be sold for any amount between Rs 10 and Rs 25," Mr Waikar said. "But in many schools, they charge as high as Rs 200. At present, there are no rules to fix a ceiling for such charges." The fees in civic-aided primary

schools should not be more than Rs 25. He stated that if a school was found violating rules more than twice, the BMC would revoke its permission.

The code states that a classroom should not have more than 50 students. It also states how much homework should be given to students daily. There is, however, no guideline on donations. "In case of donations, parents can complain to the anti-corruption bureau. Such cases come under the Indian Penal Code," said an education department official.

The rules also mention about the school term, holidays, school hours, appointment of principal, health and physical well-being of students and categories of employees.