

NCPCR asks Sapphire to resume classes

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Ranchi: The two members of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), who visited Sapphire International School on Tuesday, were surprised to see that classes were cancelled since the murder of a 12-year-old student on the campus on Friday.

NCPCR's Yashwant Jain and Priyank Kanoongo did not get any clear answer from principal Dhruv Das when they wanted to know why the school was closed as this would affect other students.

Das, who joined the team much later, said the police had instructed them to cancel classes because of the ongoing investigation.

But when Kanoongo asked for the name of the police officer who gave the instruction, Das said he did not know.

More embarrassing questions followed and the nervousness was visible on the principal's face.

"Did the school do anything for the child's family, give any compensation," Kanoongo asked. In reply, Das said, "No but we will be doing that."

When asked whether anyone from the school called on Vinay Mahto's parents or visited their house, Das replied, "No we were busy helping the police in the investigation."

"We have asked the principal to resume classes as soon as possible so that other students are not affected and that they should do something for Vinay's family on their behalf," said Kanoongo. The team came after receiving a report by the state commission on February 5.

The NCPCR team, which was accompanied by two members of the Jharkhand State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, sought details of Mahto and the four students who shared the dormitory with him.

The team, however, was miffed after reaching the school as there was none from the district education department, the police or the school to give them information about the incident.

After Kanoongo made a few calls to some officials, the principal arrived.

Talking to the media, Kanoongo said, "It is evident that the child was murdered. We have directed the police to arrest the murderer as soon as possible and also to make sure that no evidence is ignored in the process of the investigation."