

(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अर्थान एक स्वायत संगठन)

CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (An Autonomous Organisation under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

NO. CBSE/AFF./ 1730210/2025/ 55958

Date: 30.12.2025

ORDER

NEERJA MODI SCHOOL, SHIPRA PATH MANSAROVAR, JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN -302020 (Aff. No. 1730210) was given provisional affiliation with the Board up to Senior Secondary and the affiliation was renewed from time to time and school is affiliated till 31.03.2029 with affiliation number 1730210. As per conditions of affiliation, the school shall abide by the provisions of the Examinations and Affiliation Bye-Laws-2018 (hereinafter referred as the Affiliation Bye Laws) of the Board.

AND WHEREAS, Chapter 14 - "General Rules", provides for the general rules which are required to be mandatorily followed clause No. 14.1 states that, "Every school is bound to follow the Affiliation Bye Laws of the Board mutatis mutandis."

AND WHEREAS, all affiliated schools have already been informed through Board's notification dated 18.10.2018 to ensure compliance with the terms and condition mentioned in the Affiliation Bye-Laws, 2018 and also that the Board may conduct surprise inspection of school(s) any time to verify the status of compliance. Clause No. 12 of Affiliation Bye-Laws clearly lays down that any non-compliance of Examination and Affiliation Bye-Laws shall be considered as violation and action shall be taken as per the Rules in Chapter 12 of the Affiliation Bye-Laws, 2018.

AND WHEREAS, Clause 4.7.6 of the Affiliation Bye Laws-2018 of the Board provides for mandatory safety provisions for the children to be complied with by the schools. The following are the mandatory provisions for compliance:

a) Safety guidelines in the schools as issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 483/2024 in the matter of Avinash Mehrotra Vs. Union of India & Ors:

b) Guidelines on school safety policy-2016 as issued by the National Disaster Management Authority which are statutory in nature;

c) Manual on safety and security of children in schools as developed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights;

d) National Building Code-2005, as amended from time to time.

AND WHEREAS, Chapter 11 of the Affiliation Bye-Laws provides that the Board may conduct the inspection of the Schools including the surprise inspection to ascertain and ensure that schools are following the provisions of the Affiliation Bye Laws-2018, Examination Bye-Laws, related statutory provisions and any other instructions as issued by the Board from time to time. Clause 11.4 of CBSE Affiliation Bye Laws, 2018 on Surprise Inspection of the schools stipulates that, "The Board may any time get an affiliated school inspected by a committee of one or more members without giving any notice to the school." This activity of surprise inspection can be carried out any time to ensure the due compliance of Statutory Provisions, Bye-Laws of the Board and compliance of any legal mandate and all the schools are bound to offer themselves for such inspection as and when directed.

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AND WHEREAS, following news reports published on 02.11.2025 in various leading newspapers with circulation in Jaipur and other cities of Rajasthan, it came to the notice of the Board that a tragic incident occurred at the said school on 01.11.2025, wherein a nine-yearold student of Class-IV lost her life after falling from the fourth floor of the school building. The incident has caused widespread shock and anguish and has drawn serious public concern. The matter raises grave issues regarding the safety and security of students and the compliance of mandatory safety norms as prescribed under the Affiliation Bye-Laws and other applicable statutory provisions by the school.

AND WHEREAS, a two-member Fact-Finding Committee was constituted by the Board to examine the incident and to submit a detailed report on the safety provisions in the school and the circumstances leading to the tragic death of a minor student of Class IV. In order to ascertain the complete facts and identify any lapses, the Committee visited the school on 03.11.2025. During the visit, the Committee interacted with the school authorities, teachers, and other staff members, and also examined the CCTV footage and reviewed the safety measures in place within the school premises.

The Committee thereafter visited Jaipur on 12.11.2025 and interacted with the parents of the deceased child, and recorded their statements and submissions regarding the incident. Upon completion of its inquiry, the Committee submitted its final report dated 17.11.2025, wherein it recorded its conclusions and noted serious lapses and violations of the prescribed safety provisions by the school. The following are the gross violations noted by the committee:

> a) On CCTV surveillance: No proper CCTV surveillance on movement of students and preservation of recording/footage for at least 15 days;

> b) No safety measures in corridors and open areas: School had not installed the safety steel nets in open areas at upper floors as per the safety guidelines for classrooms and for other open spaces;

> c) No proper counselling system: School having no proper counselling system, counsellors not vigilant and children were never referred to the counsellor;

> d) No compliance on the guidelines and directions on child safety issued by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights;

> e) No anti-bullying committee and policy with reporting and action as per CBSE circulars and guidelines;

> Removal of evidences: the school had immediately cleaned the blood stained stairs and the area which should have been cordoned and kept intact for forensic analysis and investigation by the agencies;

> g) Staff including the teachers not wearing the Identity Cards: Most of the staff and the students also were found without Identity Cards;

> h) Absence of vigilant staff on the floors to restrict the movement of the students;

No vigilant and dedicated staff to monitor the CCTV surveillance and movement of students;

AND WHEREAS, based on the detailed findings of the Inspection Committee highlighting severe lapses and violations of the Affiliation Bye-Laws and other statutory provisions relating to child safety and wellbeing, a Show Cause Notice dated 20.11.2025 was issued to the school, granting a period of 30 days to submit its explanation along with supporting documents. Subsequently, upon the school's request dated 08.12.2025, copies of



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the Inspection Committee's reports and other relevant documents, as sought by the school, were provided via e-mail on 16.12.2025. This was done to further ensure the principles of natural justice and also to ensure that the school had access to all requisite documents necessary for submitting its reply.

A. School's reply to Show Cause Notice:

The school submitted its reply on 19.12.2025 through e-mail wherein the School has tried to explain the points raised in the Show Cause Notice dated 20.11.2025 and inter-alia made the following submissions:

- I. That ..the school vide its email 08.12.2025, requested the CBSE to provide the copies of the inspection committee reports and all other documents and materials referred to and relied upon in the said Show Cause Notice. On the evening of 16.12.2025, documents have been furnished to us by email. These documents appear to comprise the CBSE Inspection Committee's reports, teacher' statements, and the written appeal of parents of deceased child, all of which are crucial to the matter at hand. Also, the audio files and other proofs submitted have not been shared till date. Given that these documents have been received at 17:15 of 16.12.2025, it is not possible to review, study and deal with these documents in such a short period. The school will be addressing a further reply to the said Show Cause Notice within a period of 15 (fifteen) working days post a review of these documents.
- II. The school has submitted its write-up in Annexure-A detailing the academic performance and introduction of the school including the provisions on sports, infrastructure and students wellbeing etc. highlighting that the school is one of the reputed school in the locality maintaining the proper teachers training, community welfare provisions and other achievements etc.
- III. The school has further submitted the brief of deceased child in the school and her performance in academic and other extra-curricular activities enclosing Annexure B & C including some photographs of various events showing the deceased child.
- IV. School has also submitted the statement of Ms. Shweta Mehta, class teacher (III-J, Session 2024-25) indicating that she had taken appropriate steps on the complaints made by deceased child and her mother. The school has attached the remarks of parents of deceased child recorded in PTM on 14.12.2024, 22.03.2025 and 20.09.2025 to support its stand that the school was taking all issues during the PTM where the parents have made their thankful remarks. It has also been submitted that the school had no knowledge about the intention of the parents of deceased child to change the school. It is further submitted that in case the child was unhappy in the school, the option to change her school was available to the parents which they did not exercise.
- V. On the issue of allegations of bullying of the child and allegation of the parents, the school has submitted that the parents had duly attended the PTM and had made thankful remarks for cooperation and support of the school and that no bullying incident was reported to the class teacher/Coordinator/Principal.
- VI. On the day of incident, the school has submitted that the video footage of the day has been made available to the police authorities and as far as the allegation of the child being upset is concerned, the entire recording does not show any movement where the child was upset or in distress. The class teacher Ms. Punita Sharma in CCTV footage is seen to deal with the students including the deceased child which show that the teacher was listening to all and had pacified the students and had caused no act of negligence or refusal to hear any student.

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VII. On violations of CBSE circulars on students' protection and bullying, the school has submitted that it has duly constituted and has functional Anti Bullying Committee, POCSO Committee, Child Protection Policy to ensure physical, emotional and psychological safety with regular sensitisation and training programmes for teaching and non-teaching staff.

VIII. On CCTV surveillance and monitoring, the school has submitted that the provision of the circular prescribe for installation of high resolution audio video CCTV backup for 15 days, but, it does not prescribe the time within which the school have to comply with this direction. The school has further submitted that the school is in the process of replacement of present CCTV with audio visual facility. now it has installed CCTV cameras. Now the school has 15 days CCTV backup.

IX. The school has provided the building plan and building completion and safety certificate along with the fire safety certificate to assert that it has proper building safety as per NBC norms and has proper approval on building plan from the municipal corporation and there is no violation of any statutory conditions.

X. On staff vigilance in common areas, the school has insisted that it has security guards at entry and exit gates, support staff and peon to keep vigilance and supervise the suspicious activities and are always available on all floors.

XI. On the issue of not wearing of identity cards by the students, the school has submitted that students are issued the identity cards at the start of each academic session with advisory and mentioning in the scholar diary.

XII. On wiping out the blood stained area and the staircase, the school has submitted that the same was done by the sweeper (Mr. Ramu Harijan) on his own and a copy of his statement as Annexure-O is also attached.

XIII. The other allegations and violations on negligence of staff, mental harassment of the child and no proper remedial action by the school are denied.

B. Analysis of School's reply:

At the outset, it is observed that the school's request for copies of the Inspection ١. Committee reports, the appeal submitted by the parents of deceased child has already been duly addressed by the Board. The other records of the inspection committee have already been provided to the school. As regards audio clips, the written summary transcripts of the same have also been provided vide e-mail dated 16.12.2025. The contents of the conversations referred to in the audio clips have already been transcribed verbatim in the parents' appeal submitted to the CBSE Committee, copies of which were also made available to the school. It is further observed that the audio clips, as sought by the school, have no relevance or bearing on the Show Cause Notice, since the violations cited therein pertain to grave lapses in adherence to statutory provisions and Affiliation Bye-Laws relating to student safety, wellbeing, and safeguarding, which are mandatory obligations of the school. The audio clips/files may be relevant in cases involving the criminal liability under the laws but the explanations sought vide Show Cause Notice are solely based upon the gross violations of the safety provisions, statutory directions of the NCPCR, NDMA and the CBSE Affiliation Bye Laws. Accordingly, the school's contention that it would submit a complete reply only after receipt of the audio clips is untenable as the alleged violation have no relation with the audio clips of which the written summary has already been provided to the school.

II. The submission of the school that it has been functioning on CBSE patterns since 2004 and has been providing good education in the locality with a widespread reputation in society is wholly irrelevant to the issues under consideration. The violations recorded in the Show Cause Notice stem from a tragic incident involving

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the loss of life of a minor student of Class IV, which prima facie demonstrates grave and flagrant non-compliance with statutory safety norms, student wellbeing measures, and the mandated counselling and safeguarding mechanisms. The past functioning or perceived reputation of the school cannot mitigate, justify, or override violations of the Affiliation Bye-Laws and statutory child safety provisions, which are mandatory and essential conditions for continuation of the affiliation with the Board. Accordingly, the said submission of the school is not substantive, being immaterial to the violations noted.

Further, the school's submission that it has been designated as an Evaluation Centre and City Coordinator for Board examination activities, instead of lending any mitigation, places a heightened responsibility upon the school to maintain strict and exemplary compliance with the Affiliation Bye-Laws of the Board. Such designation obligates the school to exercise greater vigilance in adherence to statutory norms and to serve as a model institution, including sensitizing other schools under its coordination within the city.

The submission of the school that the child was happy during her schooling years Ш. and actively participated in extra-curricular activities have no direct connection and relevance on the touchstone of the facts on record. The moot question for consideration at this stage is to assess whether the incident could have been averted had the school followed the safety guidelines and policy on counselling and antibullying measures. The only answer to this fundamental question is that this incident was completely preventable had the required provisions would have been followed. It is evident from the records that the parents of the child had repeatedly raised concerns with the class teachers regarding incidents of bullying by other students and had expressed serious apprehensions about the school's inaction. The material on record clearly establishes that despite repeated approaches by the parents, the school confined its response merely to discussions during Parent-Teacher Meetings, without initiating any structured, vigilant, or proactive measures such as counselling, intervention, or sensitization of the concerned students, including the classmates of the deceased child. This demonstrates that the school failed to take timely and effective action to safeguard the interests and wellbeing of the child, despite being put on notice through repeated representations by the parents. Further, the school has been unable to justify its stand or place on record any documentary evidence to show that the child or her classmates were referred to a counsellor or that any substantive remedial or preventive action was taken. Therefore, as stated earlier, the absence of such measures reflects non-compliance with the prescribed guidelines and counselling protocols and if the school had exercised due diligence and adhered to the mandated child safety and wellbeing guidelines, the unfortunate incident may have been averted.

The submission of the school that, on the day of the incident, the child approached IV. the class teacher for assistance and that the class teacher heard the concerned students, including the deceased child, as allegedly reflected in the video footage, is not tenable and does not absolve the school management or the teachers of their responsibility to effectively address the issue. As already noted, the school was not maintaining the mandated audio-visual recording system in accordance with the Board's circular. Consequently, there is no verifiable record of the nature, content, or adequacy of the interaction that transpired between the child and the teacher. This lapse further reinforces the finding that the school failed to intervene in a timely and meaningful manner despite repeated and continuing concerns relating to the child's mental harassment and wellbeing. The absence of documented intervention, counselling, or protective measures indicates a serious failure in discharging the duty of care owed to the child. Such sustained inaction contributed to the circumstances

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culminating in the tragic incident within the school premises immediately following the interaction with the class teacher.

- The submission of the school that it has constituted all mandatory committees, including those on Anti-Bullying, POCSO, and Child Protection Policy, is neither correct nor acceptable. The school has submitted certain documents regarding the constitution of these committees, which pertain only to the year 2025. There is no evidence on record to demonstrate the functioning of these committees, including details of meetings held, actions taken, or procedures followed. Mere submission of documents listing the names of committee members does not establish that the school had active and functional committees effectively addressing issues within their respective domains. Furthermore, there is no record or documentary evidence to show that these committees had ever dealt with any child protection cases or undertaken any substantive preventive or corrective action.
- As reported by the Inspection Committee, the school staff, including teachers, were VI. not vigilant and were insufficiently conversant with the safety guidelines prescribed for children. It is evident that, had proper vigilance been maintained either through CCTV monitoring or by physical presence of the staff on the staircase, the movement of the child from the ground floor to the 4th floor-where she had no class or academic activity—could have been detected. The failure to monitor this movement reflects a serious lapse in vigilance and supervision. Further, the Committee has noted that most of the class teachers, students, and staff were not wearing identity cards, which are essential for identifying individuals moving between authorized and unauthorized areas. This represents a grave lapse in security and safety protocols. Additionally, no support staff were present on the floors to monitor or restrict the movement of children between floors, further exacerbating the risk. Another critical issue, as admitted by the school, is that the child left for the washroom, but the class teacher did not ensure her return, this was only when she became aware of her condition when she was informed that the child had been taken to the hospital. Such lapses on the part of the school management clearly demonstrate a failure to implement adequate child protection policies and protocols as mandated by the Affiliation Bye-Laws and other statutory provisions.
- It is an admitted fact that, following the incident, the school removed the blood from VII. the spot of the fall. Such an action is wholly unacceptable, particularly in circumstances involving the death of a minor student, which is linked to alleged prolonged mental harassment and psychological distress, and where the school management failed to adhere to the Affiliation Bye-Laws and other statutory provisions concerning child safety. The blood-stained spot constitutes a critical area for forensic evidence and investigation, yet it was cleared by the school within minutes of the incident. This act demonstrates a serious breach of legal and procedural obligations and reflects a disregard for facilitating forensic investigation by the competent authorities. Though, this act itself is within the criminal justice administration domain of the investigating authorities, the act of the school on destruction of vital material evidence manifests a deliberate act to tamper with the evidence. The school's attempt to attribute the responsibility to a sweeper is not tenable, as no support staff can act independently in such circumstances involving a fatal incident on the premises. The overall conduct of the school indicates gross negligence, lack of accountability, and failure to safeguard the welfare of the child, contrary to its statutory and regulatory duties.
- The school's submission that it has complied with building safety norms (as per NBS), VIII. guidelines of NDMA, and other safety protocols issued by NCPCR, by maintaining a proper building safety plan, obtaining a building safety certificate from the respective state authorities, and possessing a valid fire safety certificate, is not acceptable in the context of the violations noted by the Inspection Committee. Such certificates pertain

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primarily to structural stability, fire equipment, and general building compliance, and do not address the specific safety protocols required for safeguarding children within the school premises. The Inspection Committee observed that vast areas on the upper floors were open and unguarded, creating a significant risk of accidents. In particular, open spaces on the upper floors were without iron grills or safety nets, representing a serious lapse in ensuring physical safety of the students. Mere possession of structural or fire safety certificates cannot substitute for the mandatory child safety measures required under the Affiliation Bye-Laws and other statutory provisions.

C. Conclusion:

The cumulative effect of the above findings, in light of the Committee reports, available records, and the school's response, indicates that the school has grossly violated the mandatory provisions of the Affiliation Bye-Laws and other statutory requirements, specifically under clauses 2.4.12, 4.7.6, and the amended provisions of clause 4.7.10. Considering the facts brought out in entirety, it is manifestly obvious that there has been a complete failure of counselling mechanism and redressal system to address such issues in the school as mandated by Affiliation Bye-Laws. Such negligent actions and violations are unacceptable for an affiliated school, as they constitute serious breaches directly impacting student safety. A school is expected to be a safe haven for students, with society placing high expectations on the institution for the academic and overall development of its students. These violations strike at the very foundation of the affiliation and warrant strict and immediate action.

Accordingly, it is for consideration as to which of the penalties mentioned in the clause 12.1 of the Affiliation Bye Laws be imposed on the school. The safety provisions and compliance thereof by the school does not make it safe for continuation of affiliation as it directly touches the safety of the students and their overall mental and physical wellbeing. Board cannot allow the students and the continuation of affiliation in such an unsafe environment. Since the violation observed are clearly manifesting willful non-observance of the Affiliation Bye Laws to the extent of gross violation on child safety norms, therefore it can only be concluded that the school is liable for the severest of the penalty as can be imposed viz. withdrawal of affiliation.

Hence, as per approval of the Competent Authority of the Board, the following orders are issued:

- 1. The affiliation granted to the school up to Senior Secondary School Examination Level be withdrawn with immediate effect.
- 2. Student in class X and XII are permitted to appear from the same school for session 2025-26.
- 3. However, the students who are presently in class IX and XI shall be shifted to nearby school by Regional Officer, CBSE, Ajmer by 31.03.2026 for session 2026-27. The





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school shall not take any new admissions or promote the students of lower classes in IX and XI by natural progression, hereafter

- 4. The school may seek restoration of affiliation upto secondary level after lapse of one academic year i.e. from 2027-28 after complying with the mandatory safety norms and other provisions of child safety protocols.
- 5. The school may seek restoration of affiliation upto senior secondary level only at least after 02 academic years of restoration upto secondary level, if so sought and granted.
- 6. As regards the continuation of classes from 1 to 8th, the Director, Secondary Education of the State Government may decide on the status of recognition of the school as this decision is beyond the ambit of the Board.

THE MANAGER, NEERJA MODI SCHOOL, SHIPRA PATH MANSAROVAR, JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN -302020. (Aff. No. 1730210)