

## Elaine M submission of 12 February 2022

### PE1927/C - Install CCTV cameras in all additional support needs schools

As the parent of a child with complex learning needs and autism, I fully support the use of CCTV in ASN schools. Especially for those children who are nonverbal or delayed with speech and communication.

My family member is such a child whose story could have been avoided or had a different ending if CCTV was used in his education setting. We would have been able to see that it wasn't him that was the issue but more so the actions of staff who were not trained in dealing with children like him. Their bosses (the council) would also witness exactly how their staff were carrying out the job in which their paid to do.

It would prevent embellished or false testimony from staff in relaying your child's day in school. It would allow parents and staff to work together in providing the best outcomes for the child.

My family and child were a victim of such false testimony and we could only rely on his behaviour to tell us something was wrong. This behaviour was completely challenging and exhausting as my child was unable to verbalise how badly he was treated. You're playing a constant guessing game with a child who has to go to extremes to let you know something is just not right. My child was subject to overuse of inappropriate restraint carried out by untrained staff.

All this heartache could be avoided if parents could see any issues that arise during school time. School time that includes council provided bus transport which does have CCTV on it. Why not extend that protection to classes and communal areas of school?

In a society where we are actively encouraged to protect our cars and homes with the use of recording systems, why are the authorities refusing to use it in their schools? Schools that house our most vulnerable members of society. Why are they refusing to protect our children?