



CCTV in the classroom

Pros and cons

The first thing I thought when I heard we were getting CCTV in all the classrooms was that the parents could access it and every day would turn into our very own drama. Thankfully, only the boss has access but it got me to thinking about the pros and cons of having cctv in the classroom. Before I talk about the whether it's a good idea for my school, let's take a look at some of the general pros and cons.

Pros

1. Can prevent bad behavior- If the students know they are being watched, they might be better behaved. This might prevent bullying and intimidation. It can also prevent inappropriate behavior from teacher's/ care givers.
2. Accidents- If a child gets hurt, the footage of the reason/cause can be seen.
3. Teachers- Can use footage to improve on classroom management, problem areas etc. Teacher evaluations can be done using video footage.
4. Parents- feel more secure knowing that the classrooms are being constantly monitored.
5. Security- Students and teachers possessions are secure.
6. Protection- Teachers and students can be protected from false accusations.

Cons

1. Privacy- One could argue that CCTV in the classroom is an infringement of both the student's and the teacher's privacy.
2. Trust- Installing CCTV sends a clear message that no trust exists between the principal and teacher and between parents and school.
3. Performance- Constantly being watched might affect a teacher's performance.
4. Parents- Turns already picky parents pickier.
5. While it might prevent bad behavior, it might also just encourage students to take their bad behavior to areas not accessed by camera.
6. Can lead to a "guilty until proven innocent" attitude.