

# Should teachers wear cameras in class?

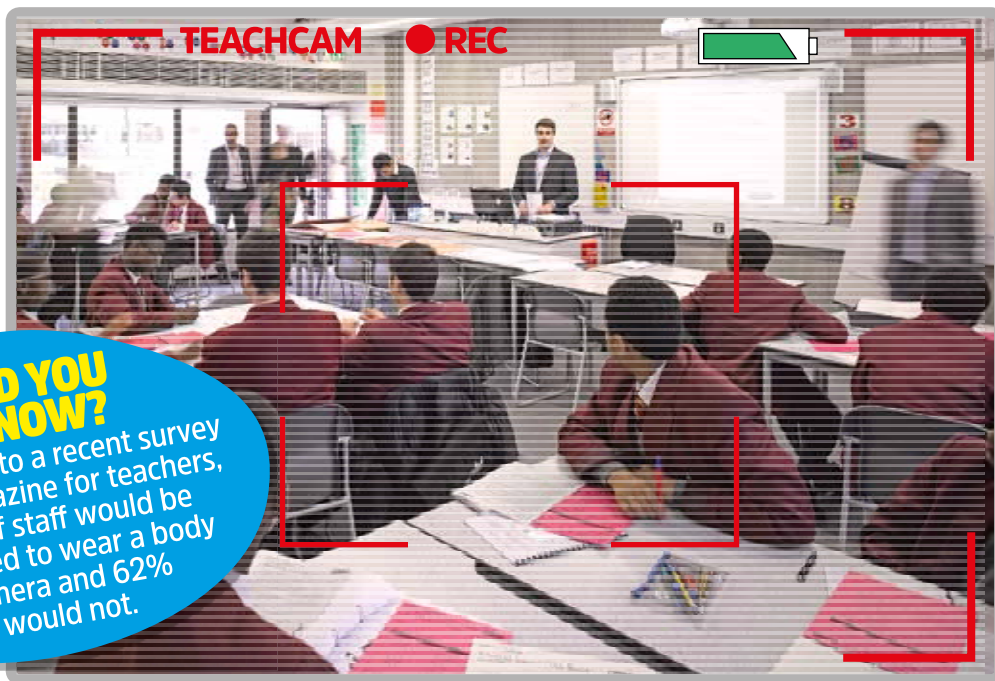
Filming pupils could help reduce bad behaviour in schools, but some people believe it is a step too far.

## What you need to know

- A 2015 survey by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers reported that 43% of staff in schools said they had experienced physical violence from a pupil in the last year.
- A body camera, or body cam, is a small video camera that is clipped onto clothing. It is also called a body-worn video (BWV).
- Some police officers in parts of the UK wear body cameras to record incidents, arrests and evidence from crime scenes. The cameras monitor their own behaviour as well as the public's.

### DID YOU KNOW?

According to a recent survey by a magazine for teachers, 37% of staff would be prepared to wear a body camera and 62% would not.



We recently ran a story about how teachers in two secondary schools in England will wear body cameras in the classroom. It is part of a trial to see if filming pupils will reduce disruptive and aggressive behaviour during lessons. Some reports suggest that violent incidents in schools, such as teachers getting pushed, kicked, punched or even having furniture thrown at them, are happening more often. In the trial, teachers will not record pupils constantly; they will only switch the cameras on if a pupil's behaviour is very bad and threatens the safety of the teacher or pupils. The recording will be used as evidence of the incident so that the pupil can be disciplined. It can also be shown to the young person's parents. Teachers may use the devices to film positive events, too, but how would you feel if your teacher wore one?

### Yes, filming works

Research shows that when police officers wear body cameras it can reduce crime levels, so it makes sense that the devices could help stop trouble in the classroom, too. If pupils knew that a teacher could film them, it might make them think twice before being disruptive. By switching the camera on, it would help teachers control their classes: they'd be able to do their job better and everyone would feel safer and more relaxed. Capturing an incident on film would be fairer too, because it would show what actually happened, rather than relying on one person's word against another's. Some people say that filming is like spying on pupils, but teachers would only begin filming when a situation became threatening. Besides, pupils who behave themselves would have nothing to worry about.

### No, cameras should not be allowed

If teachers wore body cams, it could harm their relationship with their pupils. It would send the message that staff distrusted students and expected them to behave badly. After all, teachers are not police officers. The constant threat of being recorded may result in children being unable to relax and some pupils might be frightened to express themselves in case they got filmed. Switching on a body cam may even make a threatening situation worse – disruptive pupils might see it as an aggressive action and get angrier still, or they might play up for the camera. Having body cams in the classroom could also affect pupils' privacy, especially if teachers used them a lot or forgot to turn them off. Teachers may feel self-conscious using the cameras, so their teaching might be affected, too.

### YES 3 reasons why teachers should wear cameras in class

- 1 It could stop pupils being violent and make the school environment safer.
- 2 Having evidence on film would mean that disruptive pupils wouldn't get away with their bad behaviour.
- 3 If you are not disruptive, the cameras won't affect you. You'd probably forget they're there.

### NO 3 reasons why teachers should not wear cameras in class

- 1 It could make you feel anxious, even if you hadn't done anything wrong.
- 2 Having cameras in the classroom would be intrusive and could affect pupils' privacy.
- 3 Filming a disruptive pupil could make them even angrier or encourage them to show off for the camera.

## THE WEEKLY POLL

To find out what everyone is voting on this week visit:  
[theweekjunior.co.uk/polls](http://theweekjunior.co.uk/polls)

YES

NO



## What do you think?

Each week we ask our readers to vote in our The Big debate poll. You can find out what we're voting on at the moment by visiting [theweekjunior.co.uk/polls](http://theweekjunior.co.uk/polls).

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