

**INQUIRY INTO STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR
SPECIAL NEEDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES SCHOOLS**

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 25 February 2017

Partially
Confidential

To whom this may concern,

My child who is 8yrs old has a diagnosis of ASD and Attachment disorder has been attending primary public school since the beginning of 2015. He is in a specialized class since his enrollment, the class is called MC meaning multi- categorical. I think it means for all forms of disability.

I have seen my child being restrained inappropriately on several occasions and also have heard from my child, allegations of him being hurt by mainstream teachers.

On one occasion I witnessed my son had been constrained with physical force as the MC teacher was forcing him to read. On more serious occasions he has been pinned to the ground at least twice that I have witnessed on arriving at the school basically within 5 minutes of phone calls as it mostly takes only 5 minutes for me to collect my child when I'm coming from home which is nearby the school.

My son has sustained fingernail indents to his arm where there was blood drawn, this was done by one of three teachers that had him pinned when I walked in.

Within a week of this I had noticed a very dark bruise on the inside of his upper arm, I had asked my son if he knew how this bruised happened and he had told me, "he remembered feeling pain there when the principal had held him there.

I had reported both of these incidents as they happened roughly within a week of each other and had made a phone call to the Department of education in Coffs Harbour. I was told that the Principle would become aware of this report within two days. I voiced my concern that one of the reports was involving the principle and asked the DOE if there was another avenue to report.

Their answer was "No, that this is the policy we follow."

I did not get a timely response from the principle and it was about three weeks later that he brought up the allegation in a meeting which had a woman from the NSW DOE sitting in. The principle admitted he had held my child in the same spot but flatly denied there was any force. He then went on to blame my son's father saying that "The father picked him up that day so he could have done it.

The most recent reportable conduct I have witnessed was Three weeks ago I saw the Principle holding my son by his wrist with his arm pulled up and his feet did not touch the steps which was around 5 steps.

I always get the same response from the school when I am trying to come up with solutions for my child to have some success at school. They say the Department of Education can't help and they are underfunded to help support my child.