**Transcript – Student voice and belonging**

I would argue that student voice is a win win both for adults and for the students. We know that

incorporating their thoughts, their lived experiences into the work supports more equitable learning environments and I would argue also that students take an ownership over the initiative more when they've been able to contribute to it. I think it's important that the students and adults co-create, co-develop, co-edit the work. Because then it's more reflective of their experiences, and in truth, it’s their school.

We know that belonging comes from a feeling of being attached or connected to an environment. So, the best ways that schools can ensure that students have a sense of belonging when they're at school is to help them form an attachment or connectedness. We can do that by having great relationships with our students. Teachers can look for ways that they can build relationships with children and create a climate of trust where students know that they're included and they're safe. We know that teachers who use strategies like unconditional positive regard or empathy are able

to build stronger relationships with kids. And from the work that I've done with Doctor Nathaniel Swain and Imogen Cowan, we've looked at the importance of creating a culture of trust before we can build a climate of learning, that we only see learning and engagement where kids have a sense of belonging. And so, relationship building, empathy and unconditional positive regard, we consider are the top three strategies that teachers can use to create a sense of belonging and connectedness for learners.