

How to take a whole school approach to tackling sexism

Individual initiatives and one-off events to challenge sexism can make a real difference, but comprehensive, long-term change requires a 'whole school approach'. This means that action to promote sex equality is guided by an over-arching framework and involves all members of the school community - including staff, students, parents and governors. By taking a whole school approach, schools can work to ensure that girls and boys learn and live as equals.

3 steps to a whole school approach

1. Put in place a FRAMEWORK

Action to tackle sexism in school should be underpinned by a strategy, supported by school policy, and driven by leadership. This institutional architecture will enable you to prioritise actions and ensure a consistent, cohesive approach to securing change.

Recommended actions:

- » Adopt a whole school action plan.
- » Amend existing policies and procedures to reflect the aim and objectives of the whole school action plan.
- » Appoint a leader and/or working group with responsibility for overseeing the implementation and monitoring of the whole school action plan.

UK Feminista Resources

- Whole school action plan template
- Policy integration guide
- Whole School Approach audit

Download these resources at ukfeminista.org.uk/resources-hub

2. Train and equip TEACHERS

All school staff should be equipped with the knowledge, resources and confidence to tackle sexism.

Recommended actions:

- » Provide Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training for staff on how to challenge sexism.
- » Ensure all staff are aware of and engaged with the whole school action plan.
- » Provide practical resources for staff on how to promote sex equality.

UK Feminista Resources

- CPD training available from UK Feminista
- Tips for teachers on challenging sexism in the secondary classroom
- Classroom activities

Download these resources at ukfeminista.org.uk/resources-hub



3. Support STUDENTS

Every student should be supported to learn about sexism, to report incidents and to take action for equality.

Recommended actions:

- » Run classroom activities on sexual harassment, gender stereotyping and sexist language.
- » Make all students aware of the whole school action plan and sexual harassment policy – including how to report incidents.
- » Encourage and support students to take positive action against sexism, such as setting up a feminist group or running an awareness campaign.

UK Feminista Resources

- Ideas for student action
- Classroom activities

Download these resources at ukfeminista.org.uk/resources-hub