

Case study

The King's School in Macclesfield

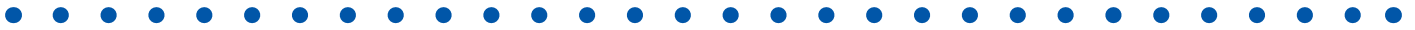
School context

The King's School in Macclesfield is a 3-18 Independent Day School located in Cheshire. It has recently become fully co-educational, having previously taught Girls and Boys in years 7-11 separately in a "diamond model"¹. The school has adopted a whole-school approach to tackling sexism and sexual harassment.

Actions taken to tackle sexism

- The School's Sixth Form Principal used UK Feminista and the NEU's 'It's Just Everywhere' report, alongside the results of a student survey which utilised UK Feminista's student survey template, to assess the current experience of year 12 students.
- The student survey results were shared in an assembly with the year group before students were invited to attend a series of four trial workshops based on UK Feminista's classroom resources. Half the year group attended the voluntary lunch time sessions.
- Small focus groups discussed the impact of the sessions the following year and as a result the new year 12 were surveyed and the sessions repeated.
- The results of the survey were shared in school-wide staff training session and then in a year 11 assembly to raise awareness of the issues students are experiencing.
- A student-led vigil in memory of victims of sexual harassment was arranged, which incorporated a talk by My Cheshire Without Abuse. Students also created a memorial for victims of sexual violence which was put on display in the Sixth Form Common Area.
- A Tackling Sexism in the Sixth Form plan was developed, based on four key strands: Institutional Framework, Building Staff Capacity, Empowering Students and Awareness. This was shared with the senior management team and school governors.
- A school audit using UK Feminista's audit template was completed.
- A policy review is underway and a policy explicitly dealing with sexism and sexual harassment is in development. This will include a rationalisation of reporting procedures.
- UK Feminista's online teacher training course was promoted within the school with many staff completing it.
- Staff from all sections of the school including infant, juniors and support staff attended a live training session delivered by UK Feminista.
- A staff survey is planned using the template provided by UK Feminista.
- School Councils have discussed sexism and sexual harassment and have made recommendations for further action.

¹ The "diamond model" is where girls and boys are taught together up to age 11, separately from 11 to 16 and together again in the Sixth Form.



- Tackling sexism and sexual harassment has been included in the whole school strategy. Current proposals include a parents information evening and further development of the initiative in lower year groups.

“Our students and staff were keen to address issues of sexism and sexual harassment. The UK Feminista resources provided exceptional support in providing a framework to construct a coherent approach that engaged all members of the school community including governors, staff and students. They have been incredibly supportive in our journey so far!”

- Richard Davies, Principal of the Sixth Form Division