



IT'S NOT JUST A JOKE:

Misogyny & Gender Bias Explained

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WHAT YOU CAN DO



- Name it when you see it, even when it's uncomfortable
- Don't laugh along with jokes that demean or dismiss people based on gender
- Speak up for peers who are being talked over, excluded, or targeted
- Bring it to a trusted adult when something crosses a line
- Keep learning and keep the conversation going

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WHAT IS MISOGYNY?

Misogyny is the hatred of women and girls. It shows up in language, jokes, online content, and everyday behavior – and it's often dismissed as "not a big deal." But words and ideas shape how people are treated in real life.

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WHY IT MATTERS

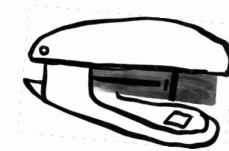
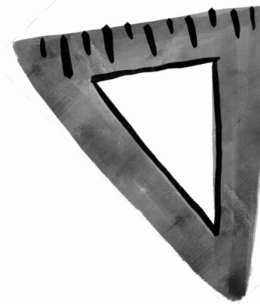
Gender bias affects everyone. It limits what boys feel allowed to feel. It limits what girls feel allowed to do. And for trans and nonbinary students, it can make school feel actively unsafe. When harmful ideas go unchallenged, they become the norm.



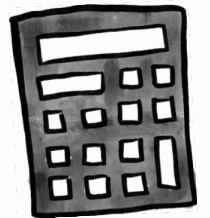
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WHAT IS GENDER BIAS?

Gender bias is when people are treated differently – or unfairly – because of their gender. It shows up in classrooms, hallways, sports, friend groups, and online. Sometimes it's obvious. Often it's not. But it's almost always connected to bigger systems of power.



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KNOW THE TERMS



Sexism – Beliefs that define women and girls as inferior and use that to justify unequal treatment.

Gender Bias – Assumptions and behaviors that favor one gender over another, often without people even realizing it.

Misogyny – The hatred of women and girls, used to police and punish anyone who challenges gender expectations.

Patriarchy – A system that gives men power and resources while enforcing strict roles for everyone else.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE AT SCHOOL



Gender bias isn't always loud or obvious. It can show up as:

- Girls being talked over or ignored in class discussions

- Boys being praised for assertiveness while girls are called "bossy" or "dramatic"

- Dress codes that target girls' bodies but not boys'
- Jokes about gender that get dismissed as "just kidding"

- Pressure on boys to be tough, dominant, and emotionally closed off
- Comments about who "belongs" in certain classes, sports, or leadership roles