

Introduction

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The Achieve and Learn Trust believes that nothing is more important than safeguarding the young people in our schools.

This half term we will be looking at how we can all challenge the derogatory language some of our young people are using.

This week we are looking at misogyny and how we can start to have those difficult conversations with our young people

What is Misogyny?

Misogyny is form of hate that targets women and girls. It's promoted in different communities online where influencers promote a narrative that women should be treated as less than men. Misogyny can take many forms from more casual sexism to outright hate against women.

Online, it is common in certain 'manosphere' communities that see women as lesser than men or the cause for struggles men face.

Young men who get drawn into these communities often do so because it offers an answer to problems they face. Mental health issues, isolation and feeling like they don't belong can lead boys to online communities which offer support and answers for the cause of their feelings. Unfortunately, these answers focus on women as the problem.



It's easy to tell boys their views are wrong and they need to stop spreading hate.

<p>Women are five times more likely to be victims of intimate image abuse</p>	<p>Nearly 70% of boys aged 11-14 have been exposed to online content that promotes misogyny and other harmful views</p>	<p>Almost a quarter of teenage girls (23%) regularly see content that objectifies or demeans women</p>
<p>Online domestic abuse is under-reported half of survivors (49%) told no one about it</p>	<p>Nearly three-quarters of women journalists (73%) have experienced online threats and abuse</p>	<p>More deepfake intimate image abuse posted online in 2023 than all previous years combined</p>

Sources: Ofcom Experiences Tracker, UNESCO, Refuge, #MyImageMyChoice, Vodafone.

What misogyny looks like

Offline; Catcalling, physical abuse and exclusion by men from certain spaces are all examples of misogyny offline. It can cause women and girls to feel powerless, afraid and angry.

Online, misogyny is largely found in videos, images and forums or comment sections. It includes name-calling or slurs, language suggesting women are lesser than men, vulgar images or photos and content that puts down women.

Get there first

If your child asks you about misogyny, pornography or other issues, that is your sign they are ready for that difficult conversation.

Sometimes, we might feel like they're too young and explain that we'll tell them when they're older.

But if they are curious, they will find other ways to learn.

So, **get there first.**

Ask them what they know and would like to know.

Clear up any confusion.

Talk about how misogyny and hate spreads online.

You'll both feel better for having an open and honest conversation.

Let them tell you what they know

Instead of telling children to avoid something or that it's wrong, ask them what they've heard about it.

If something started on social media or online, your child will likely already know a lot about it. So, ask them about it.

What can they tell you? Why is it in the news? Have they ever seen any of the content? What do they think about it all?



They get to talk through the issue, and they might teach you a little bit too.

It can also help guide them on what they can do. When they saw the misogyny, did they report it? Why or why not? Do they know how?

Discuss the right steps for your child to help them take action and stay safe from harms.

Keep talking about it

Slow and steady wins the race when it comes to a topic like online misogyny.

When something comes up in the news or at your child's school, it is natural to feel like you need to tackle it right away.

However, this might lead to a quick conversation once without any follow up.

So, take your time and keep

talking about it.

Talking while you're driving in the car or during an advert break can help you both feel at ease.

Then, give each other time to reflect and talk again, always giving your child time to form and voice their thoughts.