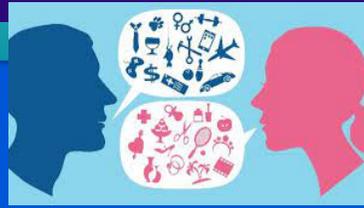


Gender Stereotypes and Violence against Women and Girls.

There is a **direct link** between gender stereotypes and gender inequality and gendered-based violence including rape, sexual assault, FGM, stalking, harassment, cyber-flashing, revenge porn and up-skirting.

In September 2021, the ‘Tackling Violence against Women and Girls’ strategy was launched. Priti Patel, the Home Secretary, made it clear that schools play a vital role in combating Violence against women and girls (VAWG) by addressing gender stereotypes.

By understanding unconscious bias, we can begin to minimise the harmful effects of gender imbalance and stereotypes. Everyone has unconscious biases. They are the assumptions we make that are based on our own personal reality. Having unconscious biases does not make us sexist, misogynistic or racist but if we are aware of them, we can take steps to ensure they don’t affect our beliefs or treatment of others.

Below are some ways in which we can see unconscious biases in the classroom.

1

PRAISING GIRLS FOR THEIR BEHAVIOUR

2

PRAISING BOYS FOR THEIR IDEAS AND EFFORTS

3

DISRUPTIVE GIRLS MAY ENCOUNTER MORE CRITICISM THAN BOYS WHILE QUIET BOYS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE OVERLOOKED

Sex and gender are different concepts.

Sex is determined at birth and is based on physiological differences. People are born as male, female or intersex.

Gender refers to sets of learned behaviours. They are socially defined characteristics and expectations about ‘being’ or ‘acting’ male or female. Gender is fluid and can change.

Unconscious bias arises because our brains have to process vast amounts of information every second. In order to avoid being overwhelmed, our brains have to make assumptions based on previous experience and find patterns to enable fast decisions.

