



# Peren Yurdakul — Year 10

## SINGLE SEX SCHOOLS SHOULD NOT EXIST.

Single sex schools are not real life, and that's the truth. Are we seriously still stuck in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when these types of schools would've probably been the norm? Do parents really want to delay their children of human interaction with the opposite sex? I have personally had all of my friends who attend single-sex schools, tell me that they hate their schools. And I have a strong belief that these old-fashioned schools create these top three issues: influence of gender stereotypes, misogyny and misandry, and the inability to interact with the opposite gender with ease.

The first issue with single sex schools is that they influence negative gender stereotypes, but schools gloss over this instead of addressing the truth. Girls and boys are expected to behave in either a feminine or masculine way; boys are expected to participate in subjects like sports over music and art, while the girls are usually expected to do the opposite. Since many single-sex schools follow the values of tradition, modesty and religion, less students are able to express themselves without criticism and judgement from other students and even teachers. As a friend to others who attend such schools, I can definitely say that this is a rather unacknowledged issue from what I've personally heard and seen. Schools should not be gender-based, rather institutions that prepare **all** children and teenagers for their futures, without the need to bring gender into every conversation.

The second issue is the truth that single sex schools may result in misogyny and misandry among their students, closely connected with their gender stereotyping. By definition, **misogyny** is the prejudice against females, and **misandry** is the prejudice against males. According to the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), "single-sex proponents say that boys and girls are 'hardwired' to learn differently". With many of these schools preferring man-made or woman-made literature and teaching styles since childhood, students develop a biasness for their own gender. Realistically, this issue will likely continue into adulthood, causing troubled relationships in the future with not only strangers, co-workers and friends, but also with students' own families.

The third issue stemming from single sex schools is the inability for students to interact with the opposite gender, another unacknowledged truth. In enrolment, parents expect that single-sex schools will increase their children's academic achievements and open doors for opportunities in working industry. Well, I'm here to tell you that the only doors opened are, yes, academic achievements that can also be achieved in co-ed schools, and trouble with basic communication. PMC (PubMed Central) reports from "two systematic studies on gender", that 2059 high school students and 456 university students experienced mixed-gender anxiety and few mixed-gender friendships as a result of attending such schools. Can you imagine how this might affect thousands more, even millions of other students in the future - being unable to properly talk with their co-workers in the working industry that these schools promised their parents they'd excel in?

Even with so many problems, single sex schools continue to exist. We need to come to the realisation that their "values" of excessive pride in one's gender are nothing but harmful and forceful. Without the mix of genders, parents and teachers associated with single sex schools shouldn't expect for these issues to magically disappear from their children and students.

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