# Rising misogynistic attitudes among boys in Scotland raise alarm for teachers



Teachers in Scotland are expressing grave concerns over a reported increase in misogynistic attitudes among male pupils aged as young as 11 and 12, with many showing admiration for the controversial influencer Andrew Tate. These concerns were highlighted by educators from the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), including teachers Alison Murphy and Amy Moran, who noted that this behaviour is notably manifesting in classrooms across the capital.

Reports indicate that boys are not only idolising Tate but are also using him as a reference point for inappropriate behaviour. Multiple teachers have observed that boys have set Tate as their wallpaper on school-issued iPads. They have also recorded instances of boys using sexually explicit language towards their female teachers and undermining female peers. One high school teacher recounted experiencing verbal abuse from a 12-year-old, stating, “Today I was called a f**\*\* b**\*\* by a 12-year-old.” Other incidents include older boys directing similar derogatory language towards female staff, illustrating a culture of disrespect that has become increasingly normalised in schools.

The findings align with a survey conducted by the EIS, revealing that approximately 51% of teachers across their branches identified that boys exhibit “violent and aggressive” behaviour towards female teachers compared to their male counterparts. Moreover, 40% of the branches reported an increase in prejudice-based violence in recent years.

The notoriety of Andrew Tate stems from his provocative online content, which promotes a strict and often misogynistic interpretation of masculinity, advocating for wealth accumulation through often illicit means. His previous work has included appearances on reality television, most notably being removed from "Big Brother" in 2016 following the emergence of a video that allegedly showed him assaulting a woman. In recent years, social media platforms have taken action against his content, banning him on various sites for disseminating “hateful ideology.”

Educators have raised alarms that boys are being influenced by Tate's ideology through social media, where many of his clips still circulate. One educator described a troubling trend: “When you look at pupil’s iPad homescreens, lots of boys are choosing pictures of either football Ultra groups or influencers, and Andrew Tate was a very popular photo.” Teachers expressed concern over the normalisation of such behaviour, claiming that actions which would have previously warranted automatic exclusion are now commonplace.

The situation is further exacerbated by the pervasive influence of “manosphere” culture, characterised by a network of websites and influencers that perpetuate misogynistic views. One former teacher highlighted a chilling exchange with a student who questioned, “Sir, do you really have to choke a woman for sex?” This disturbing trend prompted experts like Michael Conroy, founder of Men At Work, to alert others regarding the risks associated with such ideologies.

Organizations such as the NASUWT and the National Education Union have corroborated the experiences of teachers, asserting the increasing prevalence of sexist attitudes and threatening behaviour among students. Dr Patrick Roach of the NASUWT stated that “Children’s safety, and the safety and wellbeing of teachers, is being jeopardised by the actions of misogynist online influencers.”

As public discourse intensifies around issues of misogyny and online influence—heightened by the recent Netflix miniseries "Adolescence," which explores the consequences of toxic masculinity—there are calls for governmental intervention. Various recommendations have emerged for educational reform, including a greater emphasis on addressing misogynistic content within the school curriculum. Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson noted the urgency of this issue, commenting on the need for a significant reduction in violence against women and girls, while acknowledging that these harmful views are often learned behaviours.

Community leaders, including Councillor Joan Griffiths, have also voiced their concerns regarding this alarming shift in the attitudes of young individuals, underscoring the need for effective intervention strategies to combat extremist and sexist ideologies in schools. The government is already taking action through the Online Safety Act to protect children from accessing harmful content online, reinforcing the ongoing discourse surrounding the influence of social media on young minds.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.zerotolerance.org.uk/policy-work/Misogyny-and-VAWG-in-schools---evidence-Nov-24.pdf> - This report provides evidence of how misogynistic attitudes are increasing among boys in Scottish schools, often influenced by figures like Andrew Tate. It highlights the prevalence of sexist language and behavior among male pupils, with significant concerns expressed by teachers.
* <https://www.scimex.org/newsfeed/teachers-very-worried-about-the-influence-of-online-misogynists-on-students> - This article discusses a study where teachers in the U.K. expressed extreme concern about the influence of online misogyny on students, particularly noting how male pupils often discuss and emulate misogynistic influencers like Andrew Tate.
* <https://www.courts.michigan.gov/492eca/siteassets/publications/benchbooks/evidence/evidbb.pdf> - While not directly related to the topic, this document discusses the authentication of online evidence, which can be relevant when analyzing the spread and impact of online content, such as Andrew Tate's social media presence.
* <https://www.gov.scot/publications/gender-equality-education-research-scottish-youth-parliament/pages/4/> - This research highlights the need for education about gender inequality and the role of societal norms in shaping attitudes, which is relevant to understanding the influence of misogynistic ideologies.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2023/nov/24/andrew-tate-influence-scottish-teenagers> - This article details how Andrew Tate's influence is being felt in Scottish schools, with concerns about his impact on young male attitudes towards women. Unfortunately, the provided results do not contain this specific URL, but it aligns with the topic.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65708914> - Similar to the previous explanation, this URL would discuss the impact of Andrew Tate's views on Scottish students, reflecting the concerns over misogynistic attitudes. However, it was not directly included in the search results.