

What is the hidden curriculum ?

Hidden curriculum refers to the unwritten, unofficial and often unintended lessons values and perspectives that children learn in school. While the formal curriculum consists of the courses, lessons and learning activities children participate in, as well as the knowledge and skills educators intentionally teach to students. The hidden curriculum consists of the unspoken or implicit academic, social or cultural messages that are communicated to students while they are in school. EDU Glossary (2015)

How can we change how children think about gender ?

There are many things we can do within education to promote equality of gender from an early age in education. These include;

- Allow pupils to line up using other orientation such as birth-days, or alphabetical order.
- Use example of strong influences from both sex when promoting topics.
- If you hear a child making a stereotype challenge their statement. EG. Boys cant wear pink its for girls. Why cant boys wear pink my dads favourite colour is pink. Using counter examples from your life will help them to adjust their thoughts on gender.

How gender stereotyping is effecting children’s outlook on learning

Children who attend an educational establishment where they are only able to be given opportunities based on their gender can have negative effects on their mental well-being. As well as effecting their well being if a child is only expected to reach a certain level and never encouraged to reach their full potential as that subject is more aimed towards the opposite sex, then this will cause a lack of motivation even if the subject the child enjoys.

Gender stereotyping and the hidden curriculum

Gender stereotyping is something that has been very apparent within society and education throughout history. Children learn about gender both directly through education and indirectly through observing the treatments each gender receive. The traditional role of females within society is that they are raised to look after a family and are taught subject that ensure they gain the skills they need. These subjects traditionally include textiles, child development and catering commonly know as home economics. Where as boys are expected to be more masculine and are taught subjects more aimed towards the world of work and providing for their families.

The formation of gender role beliefs and conforming behaviours and attitudes likely begins very early in childhood, within the family, as families have the earliest, most direct impact on children’s beliefs and preferences. Bisin and Verdier (2000)

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How schools promote gender stereotyping?

There are many aspects of school life that reinforce the gender messages traditionally set out in society. A few examples include;

- Asking children to line up in lines by sex eg. Boys to the right girls to the left.
- Sending girls to play in the home corner from a very young age whilst giving boys cars and more physical activities ect.
- Studying topics such as super hero's and focusing on strong male influences to encourage learning with boys.
- Using pink and blue to make name labels for trays and coat hooks.

How is gender perceived in our setting ?

Within the setting gender equality is growing and allowing pupils to understand that activities whether they be physical and demand a lot of energy or more of a soft approach can be enjoyed by everyone regardless of their gender. Anecdotal evidence has shown this to be encouraging to our pupils , over past years we have had ks2 boys audition for female roles within school productions EG. The ugly step sisters. Traditionally our rugby and football teams were all boys teams and girls didn't feel they could join in, with a new push of encouragement we now have mixed teams that enjoy playing along side each other and are able to encourage rather than discriminate against one another due to gender.

References

Bisin,A,& Verdier,T.(2000).” The Economics of cultural Transmission and the dynamics of preference.” Journal of economical theory, 97; 298-319

EDU Glossary(2015) hidden curriculum; <https://www.edglossary.org/hidden-curriculum/> accessed on 12-12-18