

Single-sex schools

Single-sex schools are schools for only boys or only girls. Read what Bob, Martin, Claire and Ulrike think and answer the question.

Bob:

I went to a school just for boys and I liked it very much. It was a boarding school and I stayed there until I was 16. Then I went to a mixed school with girls. I didn't work hard because I thought about girls all the time! I think schools for only boys are much better for boys.

Martin:

I went to a boys' school but my children go to mixed schools. I had a good time at school and have good friends from school but I think it's better for boys and girls to be together. After all, they work together later, don't they?

Claire:

I loved my school days and my best friends are from school. I went to a girls' school and it was great. It's unusual to go to a girls' school but I think it's much better for girls. They can learn better without boys in the classroom.

Ulrike:

I think separate schools for boys and girls are stupid. Boys and girls play together and learn together; it's normal for them to go to school together. Here in Germany most schools are mixed and I think that is best.

Do Bob, Martin, Claire and Ulrike think single-sex schools are a good idea?

What do you think?

Single-sex schools are better.

Mixed schools are better.

I don't know.

Ask the other people in your class:

Did you go to a mixed school or a single-sex school?

Did you like it?

Make sentences:

Example: Ten students went to mixed schools. Five students liked their school.

Do you know children who go to a mixed school? a single-sex school?

Are there places where you want to be with only men or women?

- sports team
- office
- kitchen
- party
- gym
- sauna
- hospital

Single-sex schools

Preparation:

Copy the worksheet for each student. This topic may be sensitive for members of some cultures but can also provide material for an intercultural discussion.

In class:

Students can work in pairs or groups or the activity can be done with the whole class.

Answers:

Bob - YES

Martin - NO

Claire - YES

Ulrike - NO