



# Preventing gender-based violence through respectful relationships education

**Respectful relationships education (RRE)** not only provides students with the social and emotional skills and knowledge to build healthy, safe and respectful relationships, it's also a key strategy for preventing gender-based violence.

**Gender-based violence** is violence used against someone because of their gender. While people of all genders can experience gender-based violence, the term is often used to describe violence against women and girls because women and girls are most commonly the victims of this form of violence.

**Domestic, family and sexual violence are often referred to as forms of gender-based violence.**

School-based RRE primary prevention initiatives can reduce the risk of young people perpetrating violence and abuse in the future.

RRE that age-appropriately examines attitudes that tolerate disrespect, abuse and inequality, and that promote gender equality and respect, can positively shape the attitudes and behaviours of children and young people.



Schools not only have the opportunity to directly influence students through classroom teaching, schools are also places where respect is encouraged and modelled.

Schools also have a direct interface with parents, carers and members of the community, who all play a critical role in reinforcing messages that promote respect and equality.

The [RRE whole-school approach checklist](#) identifies a range of actions that schools can take to strengthen their approach to RRE.

More information on using a whole-school approach to embed RRE in your school can be found on the [RRE hub](#) and by visiting Our Watch's Respectful relationships education website.

