

I believe that hate symbols, derogatory messages and other microaggressions toward minority groups should be banned in schools. Although I am not directly a victim of this ridicule since I am white, I have seen the impact it has on students who are, and it is devastating. I go to Hereford High School which is not a very culturally diverse school as a majority of the students are white. However, I believe that it is our responsibility to stand up for those who aren't as well as members of other minority groups. I understand that I will never truly understand their pain, but school is supposed to be a place where everyone has equal opportunities to learn and grow. Hate symbols can severely inhibit this. Last year about half-way through the year, an announcement was made at school that the boy's bathroom was vandalized and there were swastikas drawn on the walls. A very good friend of mine who happens to be Jewish was extremely upset, understandably so. This symbol made her feel extremely unsafe and that she could not be fully comfortable in the school environment because of the hatred that people had shown for people of her religion. This is something that should never happen in the real world, let alone in a school environment. Hate symbols establish a hierarchy in schools, where students that are white and not a member of minority groups assert their superiority over students who are not. This is detrimental to the school dynamic because students are supposed to be presented with equal opportunities to learn and grow but hate symbols can cause students to feel as though they are not welcome or deserving of an education like other students who are asserting their superiority. Safety is vital to having a quality education and without it, education will be put on the back burner while safety will be put on the front. This completely dismantles the purpose of schools therefore hate symbols should be banned in schools