

In recent years, Fairview students have become increasingly vocal on the culture of sexual harassment and objectification they face. After two Fairview students went to court for sexual assault cases in 2020, many students rose to speak out against the issue.

Over the past four years, this dialogue has dwindled as new administration, protocols, and trainings have been put in place. However, recent silence on the topic does not mean that this problem has been solved. Here is what today's students have to say on the issue.

“I have felt uncomfortable every time going to a certain class because the boys in that class constantly say weird things about me and about other girls in the class,” (9).

“Guys’ behavior is so normalized, and so girls are being taught that being spoken to in a derogatory or sexual way is okay. It’s really not okay though, and people need to learn that,” (9).

“In today’s society men are almost enabled to be disrespectful because if a woman were to stand up for herself then she would be facing more consequences compared to ‘boys being boys,’” (11).

“I think [Fairview] actually lets [sexual harassment] slide way too much and I hear so many cases and so many people go through it and yet nothing is ever done. It’s honestly really sad and embarrassing for the school,” (10).

“General thoughts are that [sexual assault] isn’t taken seriously. I’m more pissed about the fact that administration does a really bad job about it. Administration likes to put that down and not get it sent to Title IX so we can look good for the sake of academics instead of actually addressing victims and what they’ve dealt with,” (12).

“It’s weirdly refreshing when you talk to a guy and he treats you like a normal person,” (11).

“It’s hard to have the thought in the back of your mind that you always could get sexually harassed or assaulted,” (10).

“While there has been positive change at Fairview, we still need more conscious effort to change the culture,” (12).

“Women are so powerful, and that piece of identity should be embraced,” (10).

“I feel like it is swept under the rug and no one actually says anything about it or fixes any issues,” (11).

“Before I came to Fairview I heard so much stuff about sexual harassment enough for my friends to want to take self defense classes,” (9).

“Personally, I don’t know if I would feel comfortable going to admin if there was a problem,” (12).

“Women are constantly objectified. It’s disgusting,” (11).

“The administration hides behind their slogans but when something happens where women are being treated unequal or unfairly at Fairview you see their misogynistic ways peek through and everytime it is the women who get blamed,” (12).

“Women are viewed as sexual objects while men say sexual stuff to women and aren’t held accountable for what they say” (11).

“I think women’s emotions are taken less seriously overall because whenever a woman has something to say or is upset about something it’s just because she’s being overly emotional or bitchy or on her period,” (12).

“External to Fairview, as someone who’s experienced a form of assault, the culture makes you feel as though you can’t actually recognize that and talk to people about that and that it’s not actually worth it - it makes it difficult to recognize sexual harassment” (12).

“As a teenage girl I always feel like I am less heard than men,” (9).

“It feels as if there are different rules and vocabulary for men and women,” (10).

“It makes me scared because it feels like girls have a lot less power and voice,” (10).

“It’s important for people to speak out so others going through the same thing feel acknowledged and not so alone,” (9).

SINCERELY,
THE WOMEN
OF FAIRVIEW