Schools shape pupil’s identities

Peer Groups
Male and Female Peer Groups reinforce gender appropriate behaviour and punish behaviour seem as belonging to opposite gender. Eg, boys are called ‘gay’ for doing work (Mac an Ghail, Paetcher) Reay found group loyalty reinforced behaviour

Subject Choice
Schools reinforced gender stereotypes in subject choices – pushing girls to expressive subjects and boys to instrumental ones – this reinforces gender identity. Can also be achieved through stereotypical images within school

Nike Identities:
Archer - Schools impose a form of symbolic violence against working class whose identities are shaped by wearing designer sportswear. School reject these students which forces working class to see education as not being for them

School Environment
Reay – Working class students identify themselves as being unworthy of attending high achieving schools and associate themselves as only being good enough to attend poor schools. The school is poor, therefore they must be poor.

Ethnocentric Curriculum
Focus on ‘little Englandism’ (Ball) leads to many minority ethnic groups feeling rejected by educational system. Other aspects of ethnocentrism – focus on Christian Holidays, school meals, uniform not allowing cultural variations, illustration of minority ethnic cultures as in need of civilisation by West (Coard)

Uniform
Uniform reinforces gender roles as girls expected to wear skirts and blouses and boys trousers and ties. Can also shape class identity with schools demanding certain standards of dress or pupils being sent home

Sub-cultures
Rejection by school can lead working class and minority ethnic groups to identify as being anti-authoritarian and therefore reject authority in all walks of life. Examples - Fuller, Willis, Sewell

Labelling
Positive and negative labelling impacts of self esteem and self image. Students labelled negatively may assume that academic achievement is not part of their identity and therefore look towards more vocational course in the future