

Human Sexuality (Handbook of Policies and Regulations – Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of San Antonio policy 3700)

Reasons For A Policy On Human Sexuality (Handbook of Policies and Regulations – Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of San Antonio policy 3701)

All entities of the Catholic Church are for the purpose of furthering the saving mission of Jesus Christ and must operate in accord with the truth revealed by God in both natural law and divine revelation.

Since true education must strive for complete formation of the human person that looks to his or her final end as well as to the common good of societies, children and youth are to be nurtured in such a way that they are able to develop their physical, moral, and intellectual talents harmoniously, acquire a more perfect sense of responsibility and right use of freedom, and are formed to participate actively in social life. (Code of Canon Law, c. 795). The starting point for Catholic education is a deeply held understanding that affirms the God-given irrevocable dignity of every human person.

These truths extend into every facet of our lives, including-and perhaps especially---our sexuality. Regarding sexuality and sexual identity, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "By creating the human being man and woman, God gives personal dignity equally to the one and the other. Each of them, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his sexual

identity." (Catechism of the Catholic Church ("CCC"), 2360-2363). By its very nature, sexuality is ordered to the conjugal love of a man and woman within the bond of marriage (c. 1055). And marriage, which is a partnership of the whole of life, is always ordered by its very nature to both the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children (Ibid.). All persons are called to chastity, to be lived out according to one's state in life (CCC, #2337-2359).

Ultimately, "[w]e are creatures, and not omnipotent," and we must accept and respect our humanity "as it was created" (Ibid.; see also Gen. 1:27, Matthew 19:4, and Mark 10:6). Pope Francis stresses that "the young need to be helped to accept their own body as it was created," so that "we can joyfully accept the specific gifts of another man or woman, the work of God the Creator" (Amoris Laetitia ("AL"), #285).

As Pope Francis notes, we must always respect the sacred dignity of each individual person, but that does not mean the Church must accept the confused notions of gender ideology. We must not demean or deny the sincerity and struggle of those who experience same-sex attraction or who feel their true gender identity is different from their biological sex. Rather, we seek to accompany them on their journey of life, offering them the light of the Gospel as they try to find their way forward. These truths are not merely faith-based; rather, such realities are also knowable through the use of properly functioning senses and right reason (Pope St. John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*, #22). We do not serve anyone's greater good by falsifying the truth, for it is only the truth that frees us for the full life that God offers to each of us. Thus, when a person experiences same-sex attraction or some form of gender dysphoria, such struggles do not change the biological fact of how God created that person, and it would be untruthful for the Catholic Church or our Catholic schools to pretend otherwise.

Chastity (Handbook of Policies and Regulations – Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of San Antonio policy 3703)

All persons are called to chastity in accordance with their state in life. For purposes of the school environment, chastity also encompasses modesty in language, appearance, dress, and behavior.

Sexual Orientation And Same-Sex Attraction (Handbook of Policies and Regulations – Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of San Antonio policy 3704)

Students may not advocate, celebrate, or express same-sex attraction in such a way as to cause confusion or distraction in the context of Catholic school classes, activities, or events. When discussing homosexuality or homosexual inclinations, the use of the term "same-sex attraction" is preferred, as it is a more appropriate description in accordance with the truths of Catholic faith and morals.

Gender Dysphoria/Transgenderism- (Handbook of Policies and Regulations – Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of San Antonio policy 3705)

All students are expected to conduct themselves at school in a manner consistent with their biological sex. Schools shall consider the gender of all students as being consistent with their biological sex, including, but not limited to, the following: participation in school athletics; school-sponsored dances; dress and uniform policies; the use of changing facilities, showers, locker rooms, and bathrooms (with rare exceptions only on a limited, case-by-case basis, to be determined by the principal of the school); titles, names, and pronouns; and official school

documents. If a student's expression of gender, sexual identity, or sexuality should cause confusion or disruption at the school, or if it should mislead others, cause scandal, or have the potential for causing scandal, then the matter will first be discussed with the student and his/her parents. If the issue is not resolved to the satisfaction of the school, whose primary goal must always be to uphold Catholic truths and principles, then the student may be dismissed from the school, after the parents are first given the opportunity to withdraw the student from the school.

Official School Documents - (Handbook of Policies and Regulations – Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of San Antonio policy 3706)

Diplomas, transcripts, school records, and any other official documents of the school ("Official School Documents") shall be issued in conformity with the student's biological sex as based upon physical differences at birth and at the time of the student's enrollment. Official School Documents are historical documents and, as such, must accurately reflect the name and identity of the alumnus/alumna during the time in which he/she was enrolled at and graduated from the school. If after graduation an alumnus/alumna legally changes his/her name, for whatever reason, and requests new versions of his/her official school documents, the Official School Documents may be issued in the following format: "Original Name, n.k.a., New Legal Name."