

**Gender Identity Questions - Students**

Catholic educators as well as all other members of the school staff and community are called to be witnesses to Jesus Christ and His Church.

The policy on gender identity distinguishes between two different conditions (1) where a child is born with sexually ambiguous genitalia and (2) where the gender identity question is psychological in origin.

In the first instance, where the sex of a child may be indeterminate at birth, one requiring time and medical testing before establishing an existing or dominant sex, it is common pastoral practice to collaborate with parents and medical professionals as they try to make a prudential determination on their child's actual biological sex.

This policy addresses the circumstances where there is a clear biological determination of a person's sex and subsequent efforts to chemically and/or surgically alter the given biology. This is understood in Catholic moral terms as self-mutilation and therefore immoral. To attempt to make accommodations for such persons would be to cooperate in the immoral action and impose an unacceptable burden on others in the school community.

When parents enroll a child in a Catholic school in the diocese they agree that they will not publically act in opposition to Catholic teaching. Notification of a student's determination to undergo a sex change procedure or that a student has undergone the procedure (condition #2 as described above) would violate that agreement. The student would be ineligible to attend or remain in attendance in a Catholic school.

Policy adopted:  
January 1, 2015

RWG/Bishop of Harrisburg