



Office of Catholic Schools

1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367
317-236-1430 800-382-9836 ext. 1430 Fax: 317-261-3364
E-mail: indyoce@archindy.org Website: www.archindy.org

OCS MEMO

TO: School Presidents, Principals, Pastors and Athletic Directors
FROM: Gina Kuntz Fleming, Superintendent of Catholic Schools
DATE: October 5, 2017
RE: Policy on Use of Locker Rooms and Showers

As a Church, we cherish life and seek to protect the most vulnerable individuals among us from harm. Through our Safe and Sacred and Circle of Grace programs, we educate adults and children about the dignity of each person and how to keep children safe from all forms of abuse.

We also recognize that it is important to have appropriate policies in place to establish boundaries that protect children and reduce the potential for allegations against adults who supervise them. Over the past few decades, there has been a trend across the country to provide separate restroom, locker room, and shower facilities for adults and children. Many national organizations, such as the YMCA and the Boy Scouts of America, have clear policies that prohibit adults from changing clothes or showering in the same locker room as minors. These policies serve to protect both children from potential harm and adults from potential allegations that may arise.

Following this national movement, effective immediately, it is the policy of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to prohibit coaches, employees, and adult volunteers from changing clothes or showering in locker rooms that are being used by minors. Ideally, separate facilities for changing or showering will be available for adults; if this is not possible, adults should only change clothes or shower when no minors are present and visible signage should indicate that no youth are allowed in that space during that time.

We realize that this policy may require a shift in practice and we appreciate your immediate action. We strongly believe that the best interests of both children and adults are served by establishing this clear policy, which is consistent with standard practice in many other organizations that serve youth.

Please contact the Office of Catholic Schools or the Human Resources Office if you have any comments, questions or suggestions.

God bless you and your ministry to youth.

