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St Michael's
Catholic Academy



A Proud Member of
**BISHOP
HOGARTH**
Catholic Education Trust

Head Teacher: Clare Humble

2 September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Standards Reminder 2024

I hope this letter finds you well and trust that you have enjoyed a refreshing summer break. As we look forward to welcoming our students back for the new academic year, I thought it would be an ideal time to remind parents of the high standards we expect in St Michael's. I am writing in anticipation of your support with the points I will outline below as they have a direct bearing on positive outcomes for our students.

Attendance – we expect the highest standards of attendance from students in line with the new government guidance and regulations which has been introduced on 19 August 2024 ([link to document](#)). Parents and carers must look closely at this guidance if they are contemplating holidays or other absences during term time as there are new guidelines for schools. It is a legal requirement for parents to ensure that their child attends school to receive an education.

Revised National Framework for Penalty Notices (fines) – penalty notices will be increasing following the changes on 19 August 2024. There will be a national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. This can be made up of several instances of any type of unauthorised absence.

From the start of this academic year, fines charged to parents will rise to £80 (if paid within 21 days) or £160 (if between 22 and 28 days). Where a second fine is issued to the same parent for the same child, the charge would be £160 (paid within 28 days). As the fines are per child this would mean that each parent/carer would receive a separate fine for each child. The new framework states only two fines can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling three-year period and then other legal action would be considered. For further guidance, please use the link above.

Punctuality – the routine of being on time for the school day and for lessons is an essential requirement for your child's education journey and it prepares them for the expectations of the workplace. If your child is late for school or lessons more than once without reasonable explanation, you will be contacted by us and your child will receive an after school detention.

Uniform – we expect excellent standards of uniform from our students, and it is checked daily by the pastoral team. Blazers are to be worn when students are moving around the school building with all outdoor coats removed and skirts worn at knee length. Students are not permitted to wear trainers or boots without genuine medical documentation. Jewellery is not permitted apart from one plain stud earring per ear. Any additional jewellery will be confiscated, and parents asked to collect them. All students who have had false nails or nose piercings done during the holidays are asked to remove them before the return to school.

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School bag – there is an expectation that students bring a bag to school. This should be large enough to contain books, equipment and PE kit. The daily routine of using a school bag assists students with being organised and ensuring that any homework is maintained in an excellent condition.

Class Charts – every parent has been given a login for their Class Charts parent account. It is a useful method of updating you on your child's achievement in lessons and monitoring their behaviour. If you require any support in relation to Class Charts, please do not hesitate to get in touch with school.

Mobile Phones – Last year, we reviewed the mobile phone policy with a student working party. Although your child has permission to bring their mobile phone to school, it is imperative that it is turned off and placed safely in their school bag when in the school building. Any mobile phones or connected equipment including earphones being used in the school building will be confiscated.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration in following up on the above points. I am confident that we can work together to achieve the very best for your child. We highly value positive relationships in St Michael's and I can assure you that your child's well-being is of paramount importance.

If you require any support with your child in relation to the above areas or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Scott
Deputy Headteacher

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