

Parent FAQ: Demerits and Arbor

This FAQ explains how **demerits** work at St. Michael's Middle School and how they will now be shared with parents through the **Arbor Parent Portal and App**.

Epraise points for positive work, attitude and behaviour.

We are retaining Epraise points, which are rewarded for good attitude, behaviour and work. **You can access these through the Epraise App.**

What is a demerit?

A demerit is a **record of a low-level behaviour concern**. It helps staff address issues early, consistently, and fairly. Demerits are not punishments in themselves; they are part of our wider behaviour system.

Why does the school use demerits?

Demerits help us:

- Reinforce clear expectations
- Address small issues before they escalate
- Ensure consistency across classrooms
- Support students to make positive choices

They sit alongside our positive recognition systems, including merits and praise.

Why are you starting to share demerits now?

We want to:

- Improve communication with families
- Increase transparency
- Strengthen the partnership between school and home
- Support students more effectively

Sharing demerits helps everyone stay informed.

What kinds of behaviours might lead to a demerit?

Examples include:

- Lack of equipment
- Low-level disruption, e.g. talking during teacher explanations
- Not following instructions
- Poor punctuality to lessons
- Incomplete homework

More serious incidents, such as removal from a lesson due to poor behaviour, will result in a lunchtime detention being issued.

How will I see demerits in Arbor?

Demerits will appear in your child's **Arbor profile** under the Behaviour section.

If you use the **Arbor App**, you may also receive a **push notification**, depending on your device settings.

You will receive an email containing details of the demerit.

Will I be notified every time a demerit is logged?

You may receive a notification, but this depends on:

- Your device settings
- Whether you have enabled notifications in the Arbor App

All demerits will always be visible in the app, even if you do not receive an alert.

Do I need to respond to a demerit?

No. Demerits are for **information**, but we do encourage you to have a conversation with your child about why they received the demerit and what they can do to ensure no more are received.

If a pattern emerges or a concern becomes more serious, a member of staff will contact you directly.

How are demerits different from behaviour incidents in Arbor?

- **Demerits** = A negative point given to pupils
- **Behaviour incidents** = any positive or negative behaviour is deemed an 'incident' in Arbor. We cannot change this language.

Will demerits affect my child's overall behaviour record?

Yes, they form part of your child's behaviour record, helping us identify patterns and provide support where needed.

They do **not** automatically lead to sanctions unless they accumulate to a level set out in our behaviour guidance.

What if I need more information?

If you have concerns, please contact your child's **teacher**.

How can I access the Arbor Parent Portal or App?

If you have not yet activated your account, or if you need help logging in, please contact the school office. We can resend login details and provide support.