

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that from the 1st of June, St. Michael's Middle School will begin communicating student demerits to parents and carers through the Arbor Parent Portal and App.

We have used a demerit system for some time as part of our behaviour policy. This system helps us to track and address low-level concerns promptly and consistently, supporting students to make positive choices. Until now, these demerits have been recorded internally. Moving forward, we believe it is important that parents are kept informed so that school and home can work together to support each child.

What this means for you

- There is no need to contact us about a Demerit. As we currently do, if there is a serious incident, we will contact you.
- When a demerit is recorded, it will now appear in your child's Arbor profile, and you will receive an email containing details about the demerit.
- Demerits reflect low-level behaviour concerns; more serious incidents will continue to be communicated directly by staff.
- You will be informed if your child has been removed from a lesson due to their behaviour. Lesson removal also results in a lunchtime detention being set.
- It is worth noting that the vast majority of pupils never receive a demerit and therefore, there will be no change to the notifications received by parents.

We aim to strengthen communication, increase transparency, and ensure that students receive consistent messages from both school and home. Our approach to behaviour at St Michael's Middle School will continue to be an overwhelming amount of praise in comparison to reprimand. We believe this builds a positive atmosphere and respectful relationships. We have a culture where praise and encouragement are the norm, and the expectation of all members in the school community is to be the best we possibly can be. Any demerits given to pupils do not get subtracted from their Epraise points. We believe that once pupils earn praise, this should not be removed.

We will be discussing the changes with students in an assembly after the half-term break.

If you have not yet activated your Arbor account or need support accessing the app, please contact the school office, and we will be happy to help.

More information can be accessed from the school website under Parents, Arbor - Parent Portal and App page. We have also attached a FAQ sheet.

For now, you will continue to receive notifications of excellent work and effort and the award of Epraise points via the Epraise app. If you haven't done so already, we encourage you to download it. Details are on our website under Parents - School House System and Epraise.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards
Darren Ayling

Headteacher

St. Michael's Middle School