



Pennaeth / Headteacher:  
Mr M Tucker BA MA

Spring Term 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

From September 2024 students will no longer be able to use their fingerprints to access their accounts in the school canteen. *CRB Cunninghams*, who manage the school canteen, are replacing fingerprints with a new biometric recognition system which will convert physical characteristics of your child's face into a unique digital signature, that can be used to access food quickly and securely at the canteen tills.

To enable your child to continue to purchase items in the canteen, we require your consent. **Please click the link below to access the simple consent form.**

## **[Biometric Consent Form](#)**

*CRB Cunninghams* have supplied further information in the 'frequently asked questions' section below.

### **Why are you using biometric recognition?**

Biometric recognition converts physical characteristics into a unique digital signature that can be used to quickly and securely locate your child's cashless catering account. This helps speed up service and eliminates the requirement to carry cash or an alternative method of access, such as a card that can be lost or stolen.

### **Why are you using biometric recognition?**

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### **How does it work?**

When the child places their finger on the scanner or **looks at the camera**, the software reads key features (unique patterns on a fingerprint or **distance between facial features for facial recognition**) and compares this against the database of registered users. When it finds a match it automatically opens their cashless catering account allowing the operator to complete the sale of their school meals.

### **Can these biometrics registrations be used by any other agency?**

No, the software turns your child's physical characteristics into an encrypted (using AES 256) string of characters known as a template (no fingerprint image is ever stored). Even if someone were to be able to gain access to the data and break the encryption, this template does not contain enough information to reverse engineer into a usable fingerprint.

**What happens when my child leaves the school?**

When a student leaves school all data can be deleted very easily.

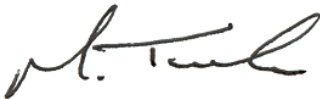
**I don't wish to give permission for my child to participate with biometric recognition, can my child still purchase school meals?**

Yes, an alternative method of authentication will be available. This will be updated on the school website in time for the new term in September.

**What if I change my mind?**

If you initially opt-in for your child to use biometric recognition but later change your mind, contact the school and we will remove the permission from the system which will automatically remove any biometric data associated with your child and provide your child with an alternative method of authentication.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Tucker  
Headteacher