



Our Ref: DJA|NMO|401

19th February 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

CATERING – INTRODUCTION OF BIOMETRICS

As part of our ongoing investment in modern facilities for the students of Rednock School, we are moving to cashless catering with biometric technology.

Innovate, our catering company, have agreed to fund the installation costs.

The benefits of the biometric system are:

- Biometric readers will remove the need for students to keep / carry individual cards, eliminating the possibility of lost cards, misuse, etc;
- Increased speed of service, reducing queuing times;
- Accounts can be topped up with your existing ParentPay account;
- The introduction of 'paying in' machines located in school to top up your ParentPay account.

Registration of accounts will take place on the 1st March 2018; this will involve each student registering a finger or thumb (usually their thumb) on the new biometric system. Please be assured that this is only used for the purposes of ensuring your child is included in the cashless system – thumb recognition details cannot be accessed under any circumstances by anyone other than our chosen supplier for the purpose of cashless payments (CRB Cunninghams Education Solutions). Please see the attached document that provides further detail and answers to frequently asked questions.

As per current legislation, we will be operating an 'opt in' policy: if you wish to **opt in**, please complete the reply slip at the end of the document and return it to the Student Post Box within school no later than 3.00pm on Monday 26th February 2018. Please note that if you choose not to have your child registered on the biometric system, an identification card or PIN will be allocated. Please note that cards and PIN codes do not have the same level of security or benefits and it will be your child's responsibility to remember the code and / or keep their card secure at all times. If students lose their card, they will be charged £3.00 for a replacement and will need to bring a packed lunch until they have a replacement card.

I hope this letter and the attached information proves helpful. Please be assured that biometric technology is used throughout many schools nationwide and is proven to significantly increase the ease of managing your child's catering accounts, as well as the catering experience for your child in school.

If you have not registered yet for the school's online payment system ParentPay, then please contact the school's main office to request your login details.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school's Finance Manager, Ms M Kingscott.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Alexander
Head Teacher

Head Teacher - David Alexander BA (Hons); MSc

What are Biometrics?

Biometrics authentication is the automatic recognition of a living being using suitable body characteristics. By measuring an individual's physical features in an authentication inquiry and comparing this data with stored biometric reference data, the identity of a specific user is determined. There are many different biometric features that can be used for authentication purposes these include finger image, signature, iris, retina, DNA or any other unique characteristic. Once a characteristic has been chosen the next stage in the biometric process is authentication. A biometric feature is saved on to a database. Once the data has been stored, a new scanning of the biometric feature is taken. If the comparison is positive, access to the appropriate application is granted.

Biometrics and Security

Students, parents and staff can rest assured that the fingerprint images cannot be used by any other source for identification purposes. The system uses an image of the finger to create a mathematical algorithm and then discards the finger image; only the numbers remain and these cannot be reinterpreted back into a finger image.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do you need to take my child's finger image? By taking an image of your child's finger we can turn this information into a digital signature.

Can finger images be used by any other agency? No, the software we use turns your child's finger image into a mathematical algorithm. The image of the finger is then discarded. The information that is stored cannot be used to recreate an image of the child's finger.

What happens when my child leaves the school? When a student leaves school all data can be deleted very easily.

How does it work? When the child places his / her finger on the scanner, the software matches their finger image with the unique digital signature held in the database.

Further information can be found on the school website.

✂ _____

CATERING – INTRODUCTION OF BIOMETRICS

BIOMETRICS OPT-IN FORM

Student's Name: _____ Year Group: _____ Tutor: _____

I do wish for my child to be included in the Impact Biometric Registration process.

Name of Parent / Carer: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

**PLEASE COMPLETE TO OPT-IN TO THE REGISTRATION PROCESS AND RETURN TO THE STUDENT POST BOX IN SCHOOL
NO LATER THAN 3.00PM ON MONDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2018**

Head Teacher - David Alexander BA (Hons); MSc

