



St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

where everyone can succeed



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Dear Parent or Carer

Use of biometric system in St Mary's

As you may be aware, one of the great features of our school is the use of a biometric system to pay for school meals. This has made a significant difference to our lunchtimes, as the service can be quicker, and less time is spent queuing. Other benefits of the biometric system include

- Students not having to carry cash for school meals each day, which can easily get lost or be spent on other things
- Students who are entitled to free school meals experience exactly the same process as those paying for a meal
- School staff do not have to spend time dealing with lost or forgotten cash, cards, passwords or pin numbers
- Parents can request information from the school about lunches eaten and the costs associated with the meals

At St Mary's, we only use this system for the payment of school meals and it has worked very successfully for four years. The system uses information from a finger print scan and more details as to how this works are on the reverse of this letter.

However, there has been a change in legislation that came into force from September 2013 in relation to the continued use of biometric information in schools. To comply with the law, we must obtain written consent from parents or carers of our students.

In order for your child to use the biometric system for school meals, one parent/carers will need to provide consent by completing the slip below and return it to the school office before the Year 6 transition days on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th July.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Miss D Lague
Key Stage 3 Leader / Associate Senior Leader

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Biometric information in school

Name of child: _____

I consent to biometric data on my child being held by the school for the use of purchasing school meals.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



Use of biometric information in school

The system used in our school, CRB solutions, is a secure system that does not store actual fingerprints. It scans the fingerprint and converts this into measurements that are encrypted and stored alongside other information the school holds about student. It would be impossible from this stored data to recreate the original fingerprint image or use this information with other systems as virtually all the original information has been discarded following encryption.

All the finger scan data captured is the property of the school and is only stored on a computer within the school. Biometric data is classified as personal information under the data protection act and must be treated in exactly the same way as other personal data. The school already has systems and procedures in place to protect pupils' personal information and is registered with The Information Commissioner's Office, registration number ZA017675.

More information can be found in The Protection of Freedoms Act 2013 which sets out specific requirements, under sections 26 to 28 and on the Department for Education website.