

Biometric Cashless Catering System

We have implemented a student recognition system using biometrics at St Benedict's Catholic High School. This allows us to make the best use of efficient systems for, initially, cashless catering.

The system improves the services we are able to offer students and staff significantly, with benefits including (for example):

- Improved security for handling cash transactions in the school
- Reduction in administration time and cost in dealing with lost or forgotten cards/passwords/PINs
- Reduction in bullying as there is nothing that can be stolen for use by another student
- Reduction in queuing time

The cashless system will enable parents to access their child's account on-line; to see, on a daily basis should you wish, exactly what your child has purchased to eat and drink at lunch or break times; to manage how much your child can spend each day and to be sure that your child can not lose their lunch money. Payments can be made by credi/debit card or cash payments at one of 33,000 PayPoint stores.

Any amount of money can be paid into a student's account held within the system. Money spent on food and drink purchases will be automatically deducted from the individual accounts.

Background to the use of biometrics in school

For the sake of clarity, biometric information is information about someone's physical or behavioural characteristics that can be used to identify them. There are many possible biometrics, including for example, a digital photograph, fingerprint, or hand shapes. As part of our identity management systems, we will record a biometric measurement taken from a finger, but not a fingerprint image. The information is stored in a highly secure database and will only be used by the school to facilitate access to a service / range of services. Our chosen solution allows us to use a secure database holding a minimal amount of biometric data to enable the use of a service / range of services.

The data is securely held on-site and cannot be used by any other agency for any other purpose. The school will not use the biometric information for any purpose other than that stated above. The school will store the biometric information collected securely in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The school will not share this information with anyone else and will not unlawfully disclose it to any other person.

Current Legislation – The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

This legislation requires schools to:

- Inform parents about the use of the biometric systems in the school and explain what applications use biometrics.
- Receive written permission from one parent for the school to process biometric information for their child.
- Allow children to choose an alternative way of being identified if they wish.
- Children under 18 who do not have permission will not be able to use existing or new biometrics when using services in the school.

If you do not wish your child to use the biometric system or your child chooses to use an alternative form of identification we will provide reasonable alternative arrangements that allow them to access current and future services.

