



FAQs - FINGERPRINT BIOMETRIC INFORMATION

Q1 What is Fingerprint Biometric Information (Biometrics)?

Biometrics is the student's fingertip, (not the whole fingerprint), that is converted into physical characteristics to create a unique digital signature.

Q2 What do you use Biometrics for?

At the school we use it to access the cashless catering account quickly and securely. 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.

Q3 How does it work?

If a student has consent, the canteen staff will scan their fingerprint on their first visit to the canteen. Thereafter, when the student places their finger on the scanner, the software reads key features (unique patterns on a fingerprint) and compares this against the database of registered users. When it finds a match, it automatically opens the cashless catering account allowing the canteen to complete the sale of a school meal.

Q4 Do I need to consent to biometrics if my child has a packed lunch?

Having a cashless catering account, gives your child the opportunity to participate in special events, for example: Christmas lunch. They do not need to use the cashless catering system at any other time but having an account offers a wider choice of lunch / special event options.

Q5 Can my child still purchase school meals if I don't consent to biometrics?

An alternative method of authentication is under review and will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Q6 What are the risks?

Occasionally the scans can produce false positives, failing to authenticate the correct student but if this happens, we resolve this directly with the canteen at the time.

Biometric data is only held in an encrypted form because it is linked to physical attributes and needs appropriate protection against data breaches.

Q7 Can these Biometric registrations be used by anyone else?

No. The software turns the physical characteristics into an encrypted code of characters known as a template and therefore no image is ever stored. Even if someone were to gain access to the data and break the encryption, this template does not contain enough information to reverse engineer into a usable image.

Q8 What if I change my mind?

If you consent to the use of biometrics, but change your mind at a later date (or vice versa), please contact reception@davenport.org and we can update your consent within the system, and securely delete any data associated with your child's fingerprint.

If you would like more information, please see our [privacy notices](#) on the school website.

Q9 What happens if/when my child leaves the school?

When a student leaves school all data will be securely deleted.