BOURNVILLE
ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL

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BOURNVILLE SCHOOL
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26th September 2024

Dear Parent and Carer,

Biometric Recognition

From October 2024, we are introducing facial recognition on our catering tills for those students who purchase items from our canteen service. This will replace the use of the fingerprints.

Facial recognition offers students the ability to pay for school lunches without the need for any physical contact, providing an entirely contactless point of sale. It's quick, simple identification method allows students to select their meal, look at the camera and go.

Facial recognition on our tills will work the same way that mobile phones use facial recognition and is not invasive of your privacy.

Attached to this letter we have included a leaflet containing information on Biometric recognition.

As we transition from fingerprint to facial recognition, we need to regain your permission for this new system. Please use this form link below or the QR code to consent for Biometric Facial Recognition Consent by Monday 30th September 2024.

https://forms.office.com/e/S06TrX6mq7

Facial recognition for our catering tills for students

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you using biometric recognition?
Biometric recognition converts physical characteristics into a unique digital signature that can 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 access method.

How does it work?
When the child looks at the camera, the software reads key features (such as distance between facial features for facial recognition) and compress this against the database of registered users. When it finds a match, it automatically opens their cashless catering account allowing the school meals.

How is the data stored?
Facial recognition data is a unique string of characteristics known as a faceprint template. This data is encrypted using AES 256 and stored on a school server within the secure school network or hosted on a secure Azure server. We store a photo along with the faceprint template. The cashless system has always stored a user's photo, which is used as an added verification by the canteen staff.

Can any other agency use these biometrics registrations?
No, the software turns your child's physical characteristics into an encrypted (using AES 256) string of characters known as a template. Even if someone gained access to the data and broke the encryption, this template does not contain enough information to reverse engineer it into a usable photo.

What happens when my child leaves the school?
When a student leaves school, all data will be deleted.

I don't wish to permit my child to participate in biometric recognition. Can my child still purchase school meals?
Yes, an alternative method of authentication will be available. The option(s) available are using a six-digit pin or manual identification via student name.

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, automatically removing any biometric data associated with your child and providing your child with an alternative authentication method.

Your sincerely

Miss M Rooney
Principal