



June 2019

STATION ROAD KNOWLE SOLIHULL B93 0PT
01564 773 348
WWW.ARDEN.SOLIHULL.SCH.UK

Dear Parent/Guardian

Biometric Catering System

Biometric finger printing is an easy and secure way of ensuring your child can pay for food at school. It is also used to allow the Sixth Form students to open the gates to the school site.

The Department of Education's legislation states that we must have written permission from a parent/guardian to allow your child to continue using the biometric facility on the cashless catering system currently being used in the school and to be able to open the gates.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the benefits of using this system in that it incorporates the latest technology and eliminates the need for pupils to carry cash throughout the day thus reducing the risk of bullying.

If you choose not to have your child registered on the Biometric System a 4 digit PIN Code will be allocated. Please note that PIN Codes do not have the same level of security and it will be your child's responsibility to remember the code and keep it secure at all times. This system will not be as easy for our pupils as the Biometric System and so we would strongly urge you to continue to support this school wide technology. In addition, if you choose not to have your child registered, they would not be able to open the gates to leave/enter the school site at lunchtime for example.

May I stress that the system does not take copies of finger prints; it simply measures the size and gap lines on the finger and this information is not shared with anyone. Some further Technical Biometric Information is available over the page.

Consent for this purpose is within the GDPR consent form.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Warwood
Associate Headteacher



ARDEN EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL: MARTIN P. MURPHY BA HONS | FAX: 01564 771 784 | EMAIL: OFFICE@ARDEN.SOLIHULL.SCH.UK

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Technical Biometric Information

The individual templates are encrypted using a 256 bit AES key that is built into the scanners hardware. Also the persisted file is encrypted using a different 256 bit AES key built into the matching algorithm supplied by Secugen and generated by a unique license purchased for each site. This is more secure than the ANSI and ISO standards that government departments use as the Secugen Template is encrypted and the ANSI and ISO standards are not. The template data is useless and cannot be interpreted back into a usable fingerprint image. If this was not the case then there would be no world standards and performance measures for such technologies. The data is stored in an array in the RAM of the Biometric Controller and is persisted onto the hard drive of the Bio Controller to be restored in the event of a reboot.

Below is an example of a template code for an individual finger.

```
0X417741414142514141414445415141414151415341414D415A41414141414174774541414C7147  
77346C5869656D6C574945494A764A6B42466D6837616C4E764D704F517874517A706A4A395A3178  
4935686C4177395366726E777645576357386C4573314B426F47443166694170675559704C76316842  
3642682A7043
```

The solution is secure because the matching can only be done by the individual's consent as the finger has to be presented to the device for matching. We do not hold images of fingerprints in our system.

The technology provided for this method of identification meets with DoE guidelines and has the facility for students to opt out of the scheme and use a PIN number instead.

Also under the data protection act the school or caterer (the originator of the data) cannot allow access by anyone to this data for any other means than for the purpose the data was collected and that is to identify an individual within the solution we supply. Any biometric data that belongs to an individual that leaves the school is purged which also is in line with the BECTA guidelines.