



WESTON FAVELL ACADEMY

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25th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Introduction of biometric recognition system at WFA

I am writing to advise that a new Cashless Catering system, with fingertip identification, will be introduced to the Academy following the half term break on **Monday 30th October 2023** via our current system provider, Vericool. This biometric recognition system will enable students to use finger pattern recognition to pay for school lunches rather than the current whole school system of ID badges that can be easily lost.

How does the technology work?

- Students place their fingertip on a scanner to make a payment for their food.
- This is their 'digital signature' which is stored as data points (like reference points on a map).
- The software then encrypts them into a set of letters and numbers which is hosted on our own school server.
- Nobody has access to this information and the stored data points can only be viewed as a string of numbers and letters. The software does not capture or store a fingerprint.

You will be able to top up your daughter/son's account for the purchase of food and drinks as normal and reports can be accessed through the ParentPay portal allowing you to review what they have purchased.

The information collected will be used solely for school purposes and we will comply with the requirements of the [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#). This technology is very secure and is commonly used within secondary schools across the UK. Consent will be gained from at least one parent/carers before any biometric data is taken from your child on the **enrolment day of Friday 6th October**.

Parents/carers and pupils have the right to choose not to use the biometric system and an alternative means of an ID badge will be offered to access the relevant services (*please note that a charge of £5 will apply for a replacement card in the event of it being lost*).

Parents/carers and pupils can withdraw consent, at any time, and we will ensure that any relevant data already captured is deleted.

As required by law, if a pupil refuses to participate in, or continue to participate in, the processing of their biometric data, we will not process that data, irrespective of any consent given by the pupil's parent(s)/carer(s).

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The accompanying form enables parents to provide their consent for their child's biometric data to be captured on 6th October or to select the alternative of an ID badge. Please print the form, and complete and return by Friday 29th September. A response is required for each child you have in the school.

I hope that you agree this is a very exciting advancement for the Academy which should greatly reduce the need for pupils to carry an ID badge, for those that wish to engage, and will aid the smooth running of the lunch service offered.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the introduction of the biometric system, please email us at admin@westonfavellacademy.org.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Todd Johnson
Senior Executive Principal

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