

Parent Briefing



Biometrics in School

Background to the Use of Biometrics in School

Biometric information is information about someone's physical 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 confirm who is using a range of services. Currently, we only use this system for the Learning Resource Centre but in the future we may use other biometric services, where appropriate.

Our chosen solution allows us to use a secure database holding biometric data for use with a range of services. This means we will store the least amount of data possible. This reduces the risk of loss of data.

The data that is held 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 if the school is 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.

Should you agree to the processing of your child's biometric information, it is important that you return a signed consent form. Please note that when your child leaves the school, or if for some other reason they cease to use the biometric system, their biometric data will be permanently deleted.

If you would like to discuss this in more detail, please contact the school.