



Friday 16th June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Tudor Grange Samworth Academy has successfully used biometric fingerprint technology for several years as part of our cashless catering service. From September 2023, we will be continuing with this method of technology with an updated system. To ensure that our systems are efficient we will be re-registering all pupils onto the system and want to require your permission to do so. This registration will take place on **Wednesday 28th June** during the normal school day.

Please complete the form at the end of this letter. Your child can return this to Student Services. Alternatively, please complete the online form using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/8hd7tYTPEv>

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you using biometric recognition?

Biometric recognition converts physical characteristics into a unique digital signature that can be used to 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 method of access, such as a card that can be lost or stolen.

How does it work?

When the child looks at the camera, the software reads key features (distance between facial features) and compares this against the database of registered users. When it finds a match it automatically opens their cashless catering account allowing the operator to complete the sale of their school meals.

Can these biometrics registrations be used by any other agency?

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 were to be able to gain access to the data and break the encryption, this template does not contain enough information to reverse engineer into a usable method of identification.

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What happens when my child leaves the school?

When a student leaves school all data can be deleted very easily.

I don't wish to give permission for my child to participate with biometric recognition, can my child still purchase school meals?

Yes, an alternative method of authentication will be available. If you would like your child to opt out of this service then we can issue your child with a PIN instead.

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 which will automatically remove any biometric data associated with your child and provide your child with an alternative method of authentication.

Biometrics opt-in form

I do wish to grant consent for my child to participate in the use of biometric recognition systems within the school.

Child name:

Year/Form:

Parent/guardian name:

Signed:

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