



The Eltham Foundation School

A Trust School supported by The University of Greenwich

Cashless Catering System

As part of improvements to the school, we have introduced a new bio-metric system for cashless catering. This new system will mean that students will no longer have to bring money on a daily basis to pay for their lunch or obtain vouchers for their free school meals entitlement. They will be able to pay in advance for their meals by means of crediting their account on machines situated in the dining areas. The new system will also enable parents/carers to credit their child's account either by crediting the machine in the School Reception or by using ParentPay, a system which allows accounts to be credited online or by using PayPoint centres located in local retailers displaying the Paypoint sign. Further information regarding ParentPay is available at www.parentpay.com. If you would like to register to use this service, please contact Lorraine Young the HR/Finance Manager on 020 8859 9168 or young@elthamfoundation.co.uk who will generate a username and password which will be sent directly to your email address.

The bio-metric system uses the thumbprint of the student and the software calculates a huge digital number from the image, and it is the number itself which is stored as a personal identification number. The actual thumbprint image is NOT stored. When a student uses the thumbprint scanner, the scanner recalculates the number and recognises the student. Such software is now being used worldwide as a means of providing additional personal security.

Students and parents can be reassured that this system has a very high level of security and that it is not possible to reconstruct the original fingerprint. The system does contain an option for the use of a PIN number instead of the bio-metric for those students whose parents specifically advise the school of their objection to the use of the bio-metrics. The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner has scrutinised the technology and has stated "I would encourage you to employ the system using finger print images. It seems to me that the use of bio-metric identifiers allows users to verify their identity without the risk of intrusions into privacy I would certainly like to be able to point to it as an example of good practice" ..

I am sure that the new system will alleviate students' concerns regarding having to bring money to school on a daily basis in order to purchase produce from our catering service, which provides an excellent nutritious service.

Can I use this opportunity to remind and encourage parents/carers to register for their entitlement for Free School Meals to ensure that students are able to access meals and the catering facilities. The new cashless system will automatically add students with the entitlement and not distinguish them from other students.

I have attached an authorisation slip at the bottom of this letter which should be returned to the school as soon as possible. If the slip is not returned then the school will presume that you have consented to your child's bio-metric capture.

Executive Headteacher: Mr Chris Tomlinson Head of School: Mr George McMillan

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If you should have any queries please contact the School Office.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Graham Cripps
Business Manager

To: The School Office, The Eltham Foundation School

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I do not authorise the school to take my child's fingerprint which will be converted into a digital number and NOT stored as a fingerprint, please let them have a PIN number

Pupil Name Tutor Group

Parent's Signature