

BIOMETRIC CASHLESS CATERING

Cashless System

A cashless system allows for parents (online or via PayPoint) to top up a catering account before entering the canteen. This allows for quicker serving times and shorter queues. The system recognises each individual pupil, holds their individual account balances, and records money spent and received. It records where money is spent, on what food, and on any specific date, at any time of day.

How are pupils recognised by the system?

Each pupil will create a finger biometric. A scan of the finger is taken and a template created (a string of encrypted numbers based off the finger scan). The rest of the finger image is discarded which makes reverse engineering the fingerprint from the data stored impossible. Pupils will then be able to use their finger biometric to identify on the system and authenticate actions.

How is a finger biometric used to obtain a school meal?

The Pupil simply places their finger on the Biometric reader at the point of sale. A display will show the server the pupil's name and current account balance held within the system. The selected food items will be entered into the system from an itemised keyboard, while the amount spent and the new account balance will show on the display.

How is money entered into the system?

- (a) Online Payments using ParentPay allow a parent / Carer to 'log-on' to a web portal using a secure username & password, and 'top-up' their child's account using debit and credit card payments.
- (b) Parents/Carers can use a PayPoint facility. The school will issue a PayPoint card on request.

How does a pupil check what their current balance is?

- (a) The online web portal used to make payments can also be used to check the current balance of a catering account.
- (b) Cash Checkers can be used to check the current balance. Pupils simply scan their finger on the reader (ID Point) to display the current account balance.
- (c) The customer display at the point of sale will also show the new account balance when the food service is finished.

How much can be spent in one day?

A daily spend limit of £5.00 will be set for all pupils and no food above that limit can be bought. On request, an individual pupil limit of your choice can also be set, to include a school dinner and break time snacks

What about pupils entitled to a 'free school meal'?

The system works exactly the same for all pupils whether they pay or have a free school meal. All pupils have their own account and use it in exactly the same way regardless if on free school meals or not. The amount allocated for free school meals will simply be entered into the system by the software daily.

The system will then allow the required cash amount for each individual pupil to be allotted to their current account balance. However, any under spend or missed dinner will be identified by the system and will not be added to the next day's balance.

The parents or pupil can also add extra funds on to his or her account by using ParentPay or topping up at a PayPoint facility. This enables a greater daily spend on school dinners than allocated by their free meal allowance.

There will be no more queuing to be issued a 'free meal' tickets, or pupils' names entered into the 'free meal' register at the till point.

Data Handling

Certain data will be held on the system to enable accurate operation. This will include your child's name, class, photo, account balance and meal entitlement. This data will be handled under the guidelines of the data protection act and only used by parties directly involved with the implementation of the system. If you have any concerns, please contact the school secretary.

Main Benefits

- * A convenient way of paying for school meals. No more looking for change every morning.
 - * Discourage the misuse of school dinner money – no more spending it in shops outside of the school grounds.
 - * Alleviate many of the associated problems with the use of cash in schools. i.e.: Loss, theft and bullying.
 - * Specific food allergy ingredients can be barred automatically.
 - * Healthy eating is encouraged.
 - * Queuing times are reduced through increased speed of service.
 - * Automatic free meal allocation with the pupil remaining anonymous.
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