Facial Recognition at Overton Grange School
September 2023

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 places their finger on the scanner or looks at the camera, the software reads key features (unique patterns on a fingerprint or distance between facial features for facial recognition) 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 (no fingerprint image is ever stored). 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 fingerprint.

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. The option available is a 6-digit PIN code (existing PIN codes will be deleted and new codes issued).

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.