



Saint GREGORY'S
Bath

"In Christ we flourish"

4 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

BIOMETRIC CASHLESS SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

As from September 2019 we are implementing a new complete cashless system for school meal service and would appreciate your support. The new system will provide a more efficient, faster and better quality of service. The new service is more secure and full audit reports are available on accounts including full purchase history.

Our selected partner for this project is Sharp Electronics one of the world's largest electronic companies. The new system will use the latest biometric technology and will eliminate the need to carry a fob or cash within the school. The system scans a thumb/finger at the till and debits the relevant account.

There will be a balance checker on the wall in the Bistro for students to check their daily balance and there will be a limit of £5 per day to spend unless your child already has a limit on their Proximity Fob in which case that will be their daily limit. However you can amend the limit if you so wish by indicating your preference on the form attached.

Monies need to be credited to the accounts before purchases can be made. The options available to credit accounts are:

- Online payments using our internet payment scheme which can be accessed by the school website, selecting the 'Online Payment System'.
- By cheque (cheques made payable to Sodexo) at one of the tills at the Main Servery.

New legislation recently introduced requires an 'opt in' arrangement and therefore requires you to complete the attached form. We are confident the new system will offer greater security and speed of service and this has been the experience of other schools which have been using the Biometric System for many years. A frequently asked questions sheet is included with this letter for your information.

If you choose not to have your child registered on the system then the current proximity fob can be utilised. To activate a fob your son or daughter simply needs to see a member of the kitchen team in the Sixth Form Café or main site canteen.

Please complete the attached form even if your child never/or occasionally uses the catering facility and return to Mrs Coombes, School Secretary. **As soon as your form has been received your son/daughter will be able to complete their biometric registration. They can do this at the Sixth Form café between 12.30-12.45 every day week beginning 9 September.**

Yours faithfully

A Cusack
Headmistress

Saint Gregory's Catholic College
Combe Hay Lane,
Odd Down, Bath, BA2 8PA
T 01225 832873
F 01225 835848
E stgregorys_sec@bathnes.gov.uk
www.st-gregorys.org.uk



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do you store fingerprint images?

A. No, fingerprint images are not stored on the system, specific points of the scanned finger image are converted to a unique numeric algorithm and then stored in the Students account record. Data is also only stored on the school premises and not on a cloud server. Students, parents, carers and staff can therefore be assured that images cannot be used by any other source for identification purposes.

Q. Can anyone see a fingerprint image?

A. Finger images are not stored on the system and from the unique number it is impossible to reverse engineer to an image.

Q. What happens when a student leaves the school?

A. All data will be deleted.

Q. What alternative is there if we do not consent to “opt in” to the biometric system?

A. Students will be issued with a fob connected to the catering terminals.

Q. What happens if I hurt my finger or forget my pin number?

A. The account details can be retrieved by searching on student’s forename or surname, a photo image will be displayed as confirmation that the correct account has been accessed

Q. How do we purchase goods?

A. Simply place your finger on the scanner. Your biometric pattern is scanned and then converted to your unique account number, which is then debited.

Q. How do we know the correct account number is being debited?

A. The name and/or photo of the student appears on the terminal screen confirming the identity to the operator. The account numbers are unique.

Q. How can I check my account balance?

A. The balance available is displayed on a customer screen at each transaction. Account balances are also available on the Internet Payment Site.

Q. What if I am entitled to Free School Meals?

A. There is no discrimination as the system works exactly the same for all students whether they pay or have a free school meal entitlement. The set allowance will be electronically placed onto the student’s account each day (The allowance is not rolled over so must be used in full each day) additional cash can also be added to enable a greater daily spend this is retained in a separate electronic purse and is only used when free meal entitlement has been used in full.

Q. Is there a limit to how much can be spent in one day?

A. Yes there is a school global maximum spend per day of £5.00 however parents/carers can also request individual daily spend limits as per the attached form.

BIOMETRIC CASHLESS SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE REPLY SLIP

Please complete this form and return it to Mrs Coombes, School Secretary, by Friday 13 September 2019.

I hereby grant consent for my child to be included in the school's biometric registration process:

STUDENT'S FORENAME:			
STUDENT'S SURNAME:			
YEAR:		TUTOR GROUP:	
NAME OF PARENT/CARER:			
SIGNED PARENT/CARER:			
DATE:			

INDIVIDUAL DAILY MAXIMUM SPEND:	
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