



CRB Cunningham

Units 1 – 9, 32 Dryden Road
Bilston Glen, Loanhead
Midlothian, EH20 9LZ

Tel: 0131 440 6100

Fax: 0131 440 6101

E-mail: yearend@crbcunninghams.co.uk

Wednesday, 13 September 2017

Impact Biometrics is coming to Farringdon Community Academy

We will be installing a biometric system at the Academy over the next few weeks. This will replace the current cash and card system used to pay for school meals. Funds can be loaded on revaluation machines within the Academy or via a new online payment system. This will allow pupils to use their thumb print to pay for their lunch. To enable your child to use the system, consent must be provided by completing and returning the opt-in form below. Only pupils who return a completed form will have access to the system and the online payment option. Further information is outlined within this information sheet and if you require any further details contact the school office on 0191 553 6013.

What Are Biometrics?

Biometrics authentication is the automatic recognition of a living being using suitable body characteristics. By measuring an individual's physical features in an authentication inquiry and comparing this data with stored biometric reference data, the identity of a specific user is determined. There are many different biometric features that can be used for authentication purposes these include finger image, signature, iris, retina, DNA or any other unique characteristic. Once a characteristic has been chosen the next stage in the Biometric process is authentication. A biometric feature is saved on to a database. Once the data has been stored, a new scanning of the biometric feature is taken. If the comparison is positive, access to the appropriate application is granted.

The history of biometrics

Once the domain of the local constabulary, biometric technology is now being used at many locations around the country. Banks, supermarkets and now even schools and colleges are adopting this increasingly popular technology. Biometrics are not new, their roots have been traced back to ancient Egyptian times. The use of finger images as a security device started with Chinese officials using them to seal documents in the second century BC. Over the last few years the technology has begun to find favour commercially.



Whilst the use of Biometrics has been steadily growing over the last ten years, the past couple of years have seen an explosion in development, interest and vendor involvement.

The future is in your hands!

Frequently Asked Questions

[Why do you need to take my child's finger image?](#)

By taking an image of your child's finger we can turn this information into a digital signature.

[Can finger images be used by any other agency?](#)

No, the software we use turns your child's finger image in to a mathematical algorithm. The image of the finger is then discarded. The information that is stored cannot be used to recreate an image of the child's finger.

[What happens when my child leaves the School?](#)

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

[How does it work?](#)

When the child places his/her finger on the scanner, the software matches their finger image with the unique digital signature held in the database.

Impact Biometrics Opt-In form

I **do** wish my child to be included in the Impact Biometric registration process

Name of Pupil: _____

Year: _____

Class: _____

Name of guardian or parent: _____

Signed _____

Please fill in this form and return to the school office by Friday 15th September