



# Alsager School

## Biometric recognition is coming to Alsager School

Alsager School is upgrading the till system in the canteen. The new system will allow for the introduction of facial recognition, alongside biometrics for the payment of school meals.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Why are you using biometric recognition?**

Biometric recognition converts physical characteristics into a unique digital signature that can 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 access method, 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.

#### **How is the data stored?**

Facial Recognition data is a unique string of characters known as a faceprint template. This data is encrypted using AES 256 and stored on a school server within the secure school network or hosted on a secure Azure server. We store a photo along with the faceprint template. The cashless system has always stored a user's photo, which is used as an added verification by the canteen staff.

#### **Can any other agency use these biometrics registrations?**

No, the software turns your child's physical characteristics into an encrypted (using AES 256) string of characters known as a template. Even if someone gained access to the data and broke the encryption, this template does not contain enough information to reverse engineer it into a usable photo.

#### **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 permit my child to participate in biometric recognition. Can my child still purchase school meals?**

Yes, an alternative method of authentication will be available. The option(s) available are biometric fingerprints or manual inputting of child's name into the till by the canteen staff.

#### **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, automatically removing any biometric data associated with your child and providing your child with an alternative authentication method.

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