



Alameda Middle School

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January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

New online Payment system information

The school is introducing a new cashless system that will be in operation specifically for canteen services. The aim is to provide a faster and ultimately better quality of service, as well as reduce the need for children to carry money in school.

All pupils will be set up with an account that can be monitored by parents/carers. Any amount of money can be paid into a pupil's account and any money spent on food and drink will be deducted daily. You will be able to log in to the system to see what food/meals your child has purchased. If you would like a daily spending limit to be set for your child daily spending limit please send your request by email to the school office.

Biometrics - Please complete the online consent form via <https://forms.gle/J4hQeZoRggCvhFc66>

This cashless system will be provided by Cunninghams Education Solution, which uses Biometrics authentication to access school meals.

Please refer to the Biometrics policy and privacy notices on the school's website for more information: [LINK](#)

What is Biometrics?

Biometrics authentication is the automatic recognition of a living body part that has 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. The school has opted to use a finger image.

Once a characteristic has been chosen, the next stage in the Biometric process is authenticated. A biometric feature is saved onto 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.

Biometrics and Security

Students, parents and staff can rest assured that the fingerprint images cannot be used by any other source for identification purposes. The system uses an image of the finger to create a mathematical algorithm and then discards the finger image; only the numbers remain and these cannot be reinterpreted back into a finger image.



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 into 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.

Dietary Requirements Please complete before Friday 16th December

If your child has any special dietary requirements, please complete the Special Dietary Request Form.

Once completed, please return this directly via email to office@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Ms D Fickling
Business Manager