



WE'RE INTRODUCING FACIAL RECOGNITION! CATERING TILLS SEPTEMBER 2024

Shorter queue times

100% contactless

**No need for students
to carry a lunch card**

Safe and secure

**Parents Forum:
22nd May
Consent required by
Thursday 23th May**

Dear Parent/Guardian

From September 2024, we are introducing facial recognition on our catering tills for students to pay for school meals. The new system will bring many advantages including:

- Shorter queue times due to a faster service
- 100% contactless, so more hygienic
- Students don't need lunch cards (they won't be penalised in the queue for forgetting their card and there will be no charge for replacing lost/damaged cards)
- It will eliminate the chance of manual till error or students using cards that don't belong to them
- Facial recognition is familiar to students e.g. used on phones.

We have spoken to several schools who use facial recognition, and they highly recommend the introduction of this technology. Of the schools we spoke to, over 97% of students opted in/consented to the use of facial recognition.

Next Steps

Parental Consent

We will need parental consent to capture the biometric data to use facial recognition on our school catering tills.

You will find more information and FAQs on how our school will use biometric data, along with alternative options if you do not give consent at the bottom of this flyer.

To give consent please complete the google form: <https://forms.gle/4hBrijvpubgkfsZkKA>

We will also be holding a Parents' Forum on 22nd May at 5.30pm for you to attend and ask any questions.

We require the consent forms to be completed by **Thursday 23rd May 2024**.

Facial Data Capture

We will be capturing students' pictures to be used by the system on the 4th June 2024. Students absent can have their picture taken later. A student's picture will only need to be taken once, as the system adapts to a student's changing physical appearance.

FACIAL RECOGNITION IS COMING TO HORSFORTH SCHOOL

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 looks at the camera, the software reads key features (unique patterns 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. 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 picture. The data will be stored in a secure school server. Data will not be shared with any third parties. The school follow guidance set in the [DFE's Protection of children's biometric information in schools](#).

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY CHILD LEAVES THE SCHOOL?

When a student leaves school all data will be immediately deleted.

I DON'T WISH TO GIVE PERMISSION FOR MY CHILD TO PARTICIPATE WITH BIOMETRIC RECOGNITION, CAN MY CHILD STILL PURCHASE SCHOOL MEALS?

Yes, the student will be issued with a lunch card.

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 a lunch card.

HORSFORTH SCHOOL

Opportunity and achievement for all

