

Facial Recognition

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you using facial recognition?

Facial recognition converts physical characteristics into a unique digital signature that can be used to locate your child's cashless catering account quickly and securely. This helps speed up service and removes the requirement to carry cash or an alternative method of access, such as a card that can be lost or stolen.

Additionally, in light of the COVID pandemic, the process eliminates the need to physically touch equipment, making the purchase of school meals completely contactless and safe.

Are other Local Authorities using biometrics?

Yes, biometrics have been used in schools across Scotland and UK wide for a number of years

How does it work?

When the child looks at the camera, the software reads key features (distance between facial features) 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 facial 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.

What happens when my child leaves the School?

When a student leaves school all data will be deleted in line with the Council Records Management procedures.

I do not wish to give permission for my child to participate with facial recognition, can my child still purchase school meals?

Yes, an alternative method of authentication will be available. The option available is a PIN.

What if I change my mind?

If you initially opt-in for your child to use facial 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 an alternative method of authentication.

Who will have access to the data / who will the data be shared with?

Only the contracted supplier will have access to this and are bound to a data sharing agreement. Any supplier staff with access to the data are subject to Enhanced Disclosure and Disclosure and Barring Service clearance. They also adhere to GDPR and Data Protection Legislation and require to undertake regular training in this area.

What will the data be used for / will the data be shared with any private companies for marketing purposes?

The data is only used to identify the pupil and ensure the correct account is debited. No, data will not be shared and the data sharing agreement with the supplier prohibits any further sharing of the data.