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Biometrics Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What are biometrics?

Answer: Biometrics authenticate people based on their unique characteristics and identifies possible matches to ensure accurate and secure identification. Facial Recognition and Fingerprint biometrics are used in various aspects of life, including:

- Security: unlocking phones, accessing secure buildings, and logging into accounts
- Identification: faster check-ins at airports and hospitals
- Convenience: logging into computers and making payments for school meals

Question: What pupil data is stored and where?

Answer: Biometric recognition operates on a closed-loop system, which means pupil data is stored on a secure database.

Question: Can any other agency or 3rd party use the facial or fingerprint images?

Answer: No, the information is never shared, and the template representing the pupils' faces or fingerprint is meaningless to anyone else. The software turns your child's image into a mathematical algorithm, and the stored information cannot be used to recreate the face or finger image.

Question: What happens when pupils leave the school?

Answer: All biometric data can be deleted; the school is the data controller and can delete the data from its databases. You can opt-out anytime, meaning the school will delete the biometric data.

Question: What if parents object to using biometrics? Can their child still purchase school meals

Answer: Parents and pupils reserve the right to object to using biometrics. Any pupil not wishing to opt-in will be issued an alternative identification method, e.g., a PIN code.

