

12 November 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Catering – Introduction of Biometrics

I am pleased to announce that the catering providers (Educating Catering Service of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council) are upgrading the current cashless payment system at Winterhill School. The upgrade will introduce biometric technology, benefits of which are as follows:

- Biometric readers will remove the need for students to keep/carry individual cards, eliminating the possibility of lost cards, misuse, etc.
- Increased speed of service, reducing queuing times.
- The 'paying in' machines located in school will be upgraded to accept notes as well as coins.

Registration of accounts will take place on the 07 and 08 December, this will involve each student registering a finger or thumb (usually their thumb) on the new biometric system. Please be assured that this is only used for the purposes of ensuring your child is included in the cashless system – thumb recognition details cannot be accessed under any circumstance by anyone other than the catering provider's chosen supplier for the purpose of cashless payments (CRB Cunninghams Education Solutions). Please see the attached document from Cunninghams, which provides further detail and answers to frequently asked questions.

As per current legislation, we will be operating an 'opt in' policy; if you wish to opt in, please complete the reply slip at the end of Cunningham's document and return it to the school reception no later than 3:00 pm on Wednesday 25 November. Please note that if you choose not to have your child registered on the biometric system, an identification card or PIN will be allocated. Please note that cards and PIN codes do not have the same level of security or benefits and it will be your child's responsibility to remember the code and/or keep their card secure at all times. If students lose their card, they will be charged £2.50 for a replacement and will need to bring a packed lunch until they have a replacement card.

I hope this letter and the attached information proves helpful. Please be assured that biometric technology is used throughout many schools (nationwide) and is proven to significantly increase the ease of managing your child's/children's catering accounts, as well as the catering experience for your child in school.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Miss Fiona Turner
School Business Manager

Att.