



The Trafalgar School

at Downton

With effect from January 2016 cash will no longer be accepted in the school Restaurant.

The school has now successfully implemented cashless catering. The new system has many benefits for everyone and has allowed us to continue to develop and provide a more efficient and faster payment system.

The system operates using a biometric scan which will mean there will be no need for students to carry around cash, payment card or token, the system will simply recognise your child's thumb print at the tills. A biometric system is much more secure and faster than any other method of identification.

As per current legislation the school operates an 'opt in' policy. This requires the consent of at least one parent/carer in order that the biometric information of a child can be processed. This information remains within the school.

About Biometrics and how it will work

Biometric authentication is the automatic recognition of a living being using suitable body characteristics – in this case, a thumb print. We will take students biometric prints which will be stored as individual mathematical algorithms on the system. Students making purchases in the Restaurant will have their thumb print scanned at the till; if the comparison to the algorithm on the system is positive, then payment will be taken from your child's account.

Biometrics and security

Parents/carers and students can be assured that the biometric images cannot be used by any other source for identification purposes. The system uses a biometric input to create a mathematical algorithm and then discards the biometric image; only the numbers remain and these cannot be reinterpreted back into a biometric image. When a child leaves the school all data will be deleted.

How do parents credit a child's online account?

The school uses 'ParentPay' www.parentpay.com. ParentPay allows parents to pay online by debit and credit card, or in cash at local PayPoint stores. ParentPay already helps 5,000 schools and 1.5 million parents to provide a safer, quicker and more efficient method of payment. Login details will be sent to you shortly to enable you to create your online account. Initially a spend limit of £5.00 will be created for every student, this can be increased or decreased by making a written request to Student Services.

Further concerns/questions?

If you have any questions about school meals or cashless catering, please address these to: John Foster, School Business Manager, via email: sbm@trafalgar.wilts.sch.uk