



Midhurst Rother College

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Part of United Learning

14 July 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Biometric recognition is returning to Midhurst Rother College

Midhurst Rother College is returning to cashless catering using the Biometric method with effect from September 2022. This was in place before Covid and worked effectively as a payment method for the canteen. Next year (September 2023) we will be moving to Facial Recognition and you will find some information below on this. Please see all FAQ's below and if you have any further questions, please contact our finance team who will be happy to help. finance@mrc-academy.org.

If you have previously consented to Biometric use and you wish to withdraw, please contact the finance office, (as above). For those parents new to the school, please either accept or decline when completing the consents form on Arbour.

Yours sincerely

Kath Chard
Business Manager

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 places their finger on the scanner or looks at the camera, the software reads key features (unique patterns on a fingerprint 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.

Principal: Stuart Edwards

Midhurst Rother College
North Street
Midhurst

West Sussex GU29 9DT

t 01730 812451

f 01730 813524

e enquiries@mrc-academy.org

www.mrc-academy.org

 @MRC_1st
@MRCSixthForm

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 (no fingerprint image is ever stored). 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 fingerprint.

What happens when my child leaves the School?

When a student leaves school all data can be deleted very easily.

I don't wish to give permission for my child to participate with biometric recognition, can my child still purchase school meals?

Yes, an alternative method of authentication will be available. You will be able to make cash payments into the reval machines on site.

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 an alternative method of authentication.

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