

**Parents/Guardians of all pupils at Wykham Park Academy and Futures Institute**

Biometric systems (which in our case uses your child’s unique fingerprint) can be a really useful. Some schools use them to register[attendance](https://www.iris.co.uk/products/identity-management/) at the start of the day amongst other things, but we will be using this system just for school lunches initially. Pupils will simply scan their fingerprint on a sensor to pay for their lunches via the payments you have made through School Comms.

Biometrics is a form of authentication they can’t lose or forget. Unlike passwords or smartcards, students also can’t share them with their friends. This makes it a strong secure and fast way for your child to buy lunch.

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# What Are Biometrics?

Biometrics authentication is the automatic recognition of a living being using suitable body characteristics. By measuring an individual's physical features in an authentication inquiry and comparing this data with stored biometric reference data, the identity of a specific user is determined.  There are many different biometric features that can be used for authentication purposes these include finger image, signature, iris, retina, DNA or any other unique characteristic. Once a characteristic has been chosen the next stage in the Biometric process is authentication. A biometric feature is saved on to a database. Once the data has been stored, a new scanning of the biometric feature is taken. If the comparison is positive, access to the appropriate application is granted.

# new bio scannerThe history of biometrics

Once the domain of the local constabulary, biometric technology is now being used at many locations around the country. Banks, supermarkets and now even schools and colleges are adopting this increasingly popular technology. Biometrics are not new, their roots have been traced back to ancient Egyptian times. The use of finger images as a security device started with Chinese officials using them to seal documents in the second century BC. Over the last few years the technology has begun to find favour commercially.

**Impact Biometrics is coming to**

WYKHAM PARK ACADEMY/FUTURES INSTITUTE



# Biometrics and Security

Students, parents and staff can rest assured that the fingerprint images cannot be used by any other source for identification purposes. The system uses an image of the finger to create a mathematical algorithm and then discards the finger image; only the numbers remain and these cannot be reinterpreted back into a finger image.

The future is in your hands!

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

##### Why do you need to take my child’s finger image?

By taking an image of your child’s finger we can turn this information into a digital signature.

##### Can finger images be used by any other agency?

No, the software we use turns your child’s finger image in to a mathematical algorithm. The image of the finger is then discarded. The information that is stored cannot be used to recreate an image of the child’s finger.

##### What happens when my child leaves the School?

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

##### How does it work?

When the child places his/her finger on the scanner, the software matches their finger image with the unique digital signature held in the database.

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| Biometrics Opt-In formNO NEED TO COMPLETE IF YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE THE [ONLINE GOOGLE FORM](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSex1jKYbM8JFfQGHH13JX86XFLz4SaefF6xm3Sc9U3kBIfN_Q/viewform?usp=sf_link) |
| I **do** wish my child to be included in the Biometric registration process |
| Name of Pupil: |  |
| Year: |  |
| School: | Futures Institute/Wykham Park Academy (delete as necessary) |
| Name of guardian or parent: |  |
| Signed: |  |
| Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Please fill in this form and return to the school office |