
Focused on Success

Dear Parent/Carer,

Madeley Academy operates a **biometric catering system** in the canteen. This system is designed to make lunchtimes quick, safe, and convenient for students and families.

What is the biometric catering system?

The system uses a simple fingerprint scan to identify each student when they purchase their meals. We use a CIVICA cashless catering solution.

ParentPay integration

The biometric system is fully integrated with **ParentPay**, allowing you to:

- Top up your child's account via ParentPay
- View balances and transactions instantly
- Monitor your child's meal choices with ease

Why do we operate a biometric catering system?

- **Convenience:** No lost money or misplaced cards
- **Speed:** Fast queues mean more time for students to enjoy their break
- **Fairness:** All students use the same system, whether they pay or receive free school meals
- **Parental Oversight:** Linked directly to ParentPay for easy account management
- **Phones:** to remove the need for mobile phones to be used in School for contactless payments

How does it work?

- Each student's fingerprint is scanned and converted into a secure digital code (called a template)
- **No actual fingerprint images are stored.** The system only keeps encrypted data points
- This data cannot be accessed, shared, or used for any other purpose
- When a student selects their meal, they simply place their finger on the scanner, and the cost is deducted from their 'School Meals' balance

Privacy and consent

We take data protection extremely seriously. Fingerprint templates are encrypted, stored securely, and cannot be reverse-engineered into an image. **No one can access your child's fingerprint.**

Before enrolling your child, we require **parental consent**. Consent can be given in two ways:

- By submitting consent via the Digital Application Form
- Or by completing a paper form available from Reception.

If you prefer not to give consent, your child will be issued with a PIN code instead however, this is a far less secure option and it will be your Child's responsibility to remember and keep safe and could potentially be used by others.

If you would like further information on our biometric catering system, please see the "Biometric Catering" page on the website.

Thank you for your continued support.

