

CRB Cunningham Education Solutions

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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.

## The 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 across many industries.



## Impact Biometrics is coming to Knox Academy

Together with FES, ELC Facilities Management Services have invested in new equipment which will allow pupils to pre-order their lunch to take pressure off queuing in the dinner hall. We are hopeful these new pieces of equipment will improve the lunch time experience. The equipment is being supplied by CRB Cunningham who are the supplier for the existing equipment and on-line payments software.

The new equipment will have a different login method which will involve biometrics. Pupils will be required to register for this after parental permission has been sought. Should pupils decide not to register for the biometric solution, then PIN numbers can be generated.



### 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

### Impact Biometrics Opt-In form

I **do** wish my child to be included in the Impact Biometric registration process

Name of Pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of guardian or parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in this form and return to the school office