

10th March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware, Bishop Young Academy installed a cashless catering system in April 2022. We are now in the process of upgrading this system and installing new software that will provide us with a more efficient, faster and higher-quality service for our students.

As part of this update, we are asking parent/carers to provide consent for students to use biometric fingerprint recognition to access the new system.

This letter provides information about how fingerprint recognition works, how we will use the software, and most importantly, the benefits for pupils.

What is fingerprint recognition

Fingerprint biometrics works in the same way as other recognition technology. Like a PIN, a unique identifier is attributed to each pupil and matched for a quick and secure authorisation process.

Consent

Students must **opt in** before a fingerprint scan is taken. The biometric fingerprint scanner captures the unique trait (e.g., it takes an impression of the fingerprint). This fingerprint impression is not retained, stored, or distributed to third parties.

Capture

During checkout, students place their fingers on the fingerprint scanner. The system reads distinctive fingerprint features and processes them through a secure algorithm. This converts the fingerprint into a unique string of characters, serving as the pupils' unique identifier. This unique identifier is stored on a secure, encrypted database hosted on a Microsoft Azure server in the UK and is used to verify pupils' accounts at the checkout.

This data is encrypted using AES 256 (similar to encryption used by your online banking) and cannot be reversed to produce an image of the biometric, ensuring the highest level of security and compliance

Authentication

The pupil's unique identifier securely matches the live fingerprint to their cashless account, and the transaction can now occur.

How to provide consent

Like all biometric recognition methods, fingerprint recognition requires consent. If you would like your child to use this software, please complete the online consent form by Friday 27th March:

[Cashless Catering - Biometric Consent - Fill in form](#)



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Registered Company Number: 07705552



Alternatively, you can return the form below to the school office.

If you choose not to provide consent for your child to use the biometric system, they will be provided with a PIN number which can be used to access their account at the tills.

Yours sincerely,

Ms E Kempthorne
Head of School

Fingerprint recognition consent form

I consent to BYA including my child in the fingerprint biometric registration process	YES/NO
Name of Student	
Year Group	
Registration Group	
Name of Parent/Carer	
Signature of Parent/Carer	

Please return to the school office by Friday 27th March 2026.