

## **Biometric recognition – Facial recognition for use in catering system**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Why are you using biometric recognition?**

Biometric recognition converts physical characteristics into a unique digital signature that can quickly and securely locate your child's cashless catering account. This helps speed up service and eliminates the need to provide lunch slips to pupils who have lost their ID cards.

#### **How does it work?**

When the child looks at the camera, the software reads key features (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.

#### **How is the data stored?**

Facial Recognition data is a unique string of characters known as a faceprint template. This data is encrypted using AES 256 and stored on a school server within the secure school network or hosted on a secure Azure server. We store a photo along with the faceprint template. The cashless system has always stored a user's photo, which is used as an added verification by the canteen staff.

#### **Can any other agency use these biometrics registrations?**

No, the software turns your child's physical characteristics into an encrypted (using AES 256) string of characters known as a template. Even if someone gained access to the data and broke the encryption, this template does not contain enough information to reverse engineer it into a usable photo.

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 permit my child to participate in biometric recognition. Can my child still purchase school meals?**

Yes, an alternative method of authentication will be available. Your child will continue to use their ID card (obtaining a lunch slip if they lose their ID card)

#### **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 by emailing [enquiries@skiddersacademy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@skiddersacademy.org.uk) with the heading **URGENT:WITHDRAWAL OF CONSENT FOR USE OF BIOMETRIC DATA (FACIAL RECOGNITION)**, and with your name and your child's full name. We will then remove the permission from the system, automatically removing any biometric data associated with your child and from then on your child will use their ID card at the tills instead.