



Biometric Policy

Document control table			
Document title:		Biometric Policy	
Owner(s) (name & job title):		Fatima Yusuf, Data Protection Officer	
Version number:		V5	
Date approved:		June 2026	
Approved by:		Executive Team	
Date of review:		June 2028	
Document History			
Version	Date	Author	Note of revisions
V5	30.06.2026	Fatima Yusuf	DPO details updated

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Key Points

Schools that use students' biometric data (see 1. below) must treat the data collected with appropriate care and must comply with the data protection principles as set out in the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

Where the data is to be used as part of an automated biometric recognition system (see 2 below), schools must also comply with the additional requirements in sections 26 to 28 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

Schools must ensure that the parent/carer of each child is informed of the intention to use the child's biometric data (see 1 below) as part of an automated biometric recognition system.

The written consent of the parent/carer or the child, where the child is deemed to have the capacity to consent (see below), must be obtained before the data is taken from the child and used (i.e. 'processed' – see 3 below). In no circumstances can a child's biometric data be processed without written consent.

Schools must not process the biometric data of a student where:

- a) The child (whether verbally or non-verbally) objects or refuses to participate in the processing of their biometric data;
- b) A parent or student has not consented in writing to the processing; or
- c) A parent or student has objected in writing to such processing, even if another parent has given written consent.

Schools must provide reasonable alternative means of accessing the services to those students who will not be using an automated biometric recognition system.

Biometric Data and Processing

1. What is biometric data?

Biometric data means personal information about an individual's physical or behavioural characteristics that can be used to identify that person; this can include their fingerprints, facial shape, retina and iris patterns, and hand measurements.

The Information Commissioner considers all biometric information to be personal data as defined by the General Data Protection Regulation; this means that it must be obtained, used and stored in accordance with that Regulation.

The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 includes provisions which relate to the use of biometric data in schools and colleges when used as part of an automated biometric recognition system. These provisions are in addition to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation.

2. What is an automated biometric recognition system?

An automated biometric recognition system uses technology which measures an individual's physical or behavioural characteristics by using equipment that operates 'automatically' (i.e. electronically).

Information from the individual is automatically compared with biometric information stored in the system to see if there is a match in order to recognise or identify the individual.

Biometric recognition systems can use many kinds of physical or behavioural characteristics such as those listed in I. above.

3. What does processing data mean?

'Processing' of biometric information includes obtaining, recording or holding the data or carrying out any operation or set of operations on the data including (but not limited to) disclosing it, deleting it, organising it or altering it. An automated biometric recognition system processes data when:

- A. recording students' biometric data, for example, taking measurements from a fingerprint via a fingerprint scanner;
- B. storing students' biometric information on a database system; or
- C. using that data as part of an electronic process, for example, by comparing it with biometric information stored on a database in order to identify or recognise students.

4. Who is able to give consent?

The Data Protection Act gives children rights over their own data when they are considered to have adequate capacity to understand. Most children will reach this level of understanding at around age 13. For this reason, for most children in a secondary school, it will normally be up to the individual child to decide whether or not to provide biometric data. Where the academy considers that the child does not have the capacity (generally recognised at around the age of 13) parents/carers will be asked to provide consent.

Schools and colleges will be required to notify each parent of a child whose biometric information they wish to collect/use. If either parent objects in writing, then the school will not be permitted to take or use that child's biometric data.

5. Length of consent

The original written consent is valid until such time as it is withdrawn. However, it can be overridden, at any time either parent or the child themselves objects to the processing (subject to the parent's objection being in writing). When the student leaves the academy, their biometric data will be securely removed from the academy's biometric recognition system.

Biometric Consent form (parent/carer)

Student name:

Please sign below if you consent to the Academy taking and using information from your son/daughter's fingerprint and/or facial recognition as part of an automated biometric recognition system. This biometric information will be used by the Academy for the purposes of student identification when accessing academy services.

In signing this form, you are authorising the Academy to use your son/daughter's biometric information for this purpose until they either leave the Academy or cease to use the system.

If you wish to withdraw your consent at any time, this must be done so in writing and sent to the Principal. Once your son/daughter ceases to use the biometric recognition system, his/her biometric information will be securely deleted by the Academy.

Parent/carer name:

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Signature:

Date:

Biometric Consent form (student)

Student name:

Please sign below if you consent to the Academy taking and using information from your fingerprint and/or facial recognition as part of an automated biometric recognition system. This biometric information will be used by the Academy for the purposes of student identification when accessing academy services.

In signing this form, you are authorising the Academy to use your biometric information for this purpose until you either leave the Academy or cease to use the system.

If you wish to withdraw your consent at any time, this must be done so in writing and sent to the Principal. Once you cease to use the biometric recognition system, your biometric information will be securely deleted by the Academy.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Biometric Consent form (staff)

Staff name:

Please sign below if you consent to the Academy taking and using information from your fingerprint and/or facial recognition as part of an automated biometric recognition system. This biometric information will be used by the Academy for the purpose of charging for school meals.

In signing this form, you are authorising the Academy to use your biometric information for this purpose until you either leave the Academy or cease to use the system.

If you wish to withdraw your consent at any time, this must be done so in writing and sent to the Principal. Once you cease to use the biometric recognition system, your biometric information will be securely deleted by the Academy.

Staff consent:

Having read the above guidance information, I give consent to information from my fingerprint and/or facial recognition being taken and used by the Academy for use as part of an automated biometric recognition system for the purchase of school meals.

I understand that I can withdraw this consent at any time in writing.

Name:

Signature:

Date: