



4 July 2018

Dear parent/carer

**Ref: Introduction of Cashless Catering through WisePay**

Like many other schools in the local area and nationwide have already done or are in the process of doing so, we are moving to a cashless catering system. From September 2018 we are introducing the system in all of our canteens using our online payment service provider WisePay, and shortly into the new term we will cease to accept cash payments for purchases.

A cashless system means you know your son/daughter will be making purchases in school at break or lunchtime, rather than less healthy choices or other purchases outside of school.

**How does it work?**

Once the system is launched, you will find a cashless catering option within your WisePay account. Through this option you will be able to top up your son/daughter's cashless catering fund with money to spend on items in our canteens. You will also be able to monitor your son/daughter's purchases and receive a notification when the fund is running low.

In order to make purchases, we will be using a biometric system rather than a card based one. Once we have received the appropriate consent form, upon enrolment we will take two fingerprint templates from your son/daughter (just in case one finger gets a minor injury and they have a plaster on their finger or similar). Either one can then be used each time they make a purchase.

**Why biometric and not a card based system?**

Cards are easily lost or forgotten, cost money to replace and are open to being used without consent. A biometric system doesn't have these disadvantages. The biometric system is quick and easy to use, enabling faster purchases than cash or card based systems.

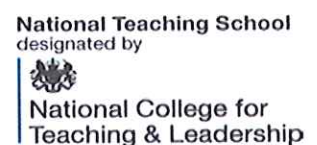
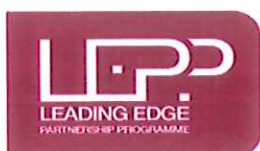
The biometric system is entirely secure. It doesn't store an image of the fingerprint but unique data points within the fingerprint are converted into a long number which is encrypted. The number is unrecognisable outside of the WisePay/idXtra biometric system as a fingerprint and can't be turned back into the image of one. The encrypted number is held onsite and only purchase transactions are shared with the WisePay system. Every time your son/daughter makes a purchase, the scanned fingerprint presented is compared to the encrypted number before a purchase is authorised.

A biometric system is able to spot the differences between the fingerprints of identical twins, as their fingerprints are still unique from each other.

**What if I forget to top-up the fund?**

The system will notify you when funds are running low and to top up. We can enable a small overdraft allowance for each account with enough money to enable your son or daughter to purchase a hot or cold meal on the day, but the account will need to be topped up before it can be used again if the overdraft limit is reached.

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### What about free school meals?

If your son/daughter is in receipt of free school meals, the cashless catering system will be notified of this and this enables an almost transparent transaction to take place, just like any other cashless catering purchase. Any transaction total above the free school meal allowance can be topped up by funds you put on their account, if you wish to do so.

### What happens next?

Before we can use the biometric system with your son/daughter, we need both your and their consent. Details about the consent required are detailed in the attached pages and the form which needs to be returned. Once we are confident the system is up and running properly, we will give notice on the use of cash in the school canteens.

Please complete and return the consent form and return it as soon as possible to school via your son/daughter to either North or South Reception.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Gray  
Acting Head teacher



Mr A French  
Deputy Headteacher