



Biometric consent

We operate a biometric student recognition system at Ysgol Bae Baglan. This allows us to make the best use of efficient systems such as cashless catering, library software, print and copy cost control, access control and registration systems.

This system improves the services we offer students and staff, with benefits including:

- Improved security for handling cash transactions in the school
- Reduction in opportunities for bullying as there is nothing that can be stolen for use by another student
- Children will not have to remember to bring a card
- Reduction in queuing time

This is a technology is used successfully by thousands of schools and has been used here at Ysgol Bae Baglan since our opening. We would like to make it clear that Ysgol Bae Baglan will always comply with the latest Data Protection and Privacy laws regarding the use of biometric data. For your child to use the biometric system, one parent or guardian will need to read, agree and sign our consent form. We will also offer an opportunity to opt out for those pupils who, upon consideration, would prefer to use alternative forms of identification.

Background to the use of biometrics in school

For the sake of clarity, biometric information is information about someone's physical or behavioural characteristics that can be used to identify them. There are many possible biometrics, including for example, a digital photograph, fingerprint, or hand shapes. As part of our identity management systems, we will record a biometric measurement taken from a finger, but not a fingerprint image. The information is stored in a highly secure database and will only be used by the school to confirm who is using a range of services. In future we may use other biometric services where appropriate.

Our chosen solution allows us to use a secure database holding biometric data for use with a range of services. This means we will store the least amount of data possible. This reduces the risk of loss of data.

The data that is held cannot be used by any other agency for any other purpose.

The school will not use the biometric information for any purpose other than that stated above. The school will store the biometric information collected securely in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The school will not share this information with anyone else and will not unlawfully disclose it to any other person.

Current Legislation

Current legislation requires schools to:

- Inform parents about the use of the biometric systems in the school and explain what applications use biometrics.
- Receive written permission from one parent if the school is to process biometric information for their child.
- Allow children to choose an alternative way of being identified if they wish.
- Permanently delete the biometric data if for any reason the pupil ceases to use the school systems.

If you do not wish your child to use the biometric system or your child chooses to use an alternative form of identification, we will provide reasonable alternative arrangements that allow them to access current and future services.

Should you agree to the processing of your child's biometric information, it is important that you return the signed consent form as soon as possible.