

The school meals service operates with fingertip identification as part of our upgraded cashless catering system. This means that students will place their fingertip on a scanner whenever they are making payment for food or drink. This “finger image” is then translated in to a unique encrypted sequence of numbers and letters in such a way that it is impossible to recreate the finger image. At no time is the finger image stored on any computer system.

The sequence of numbers and letters is the students’ unique ‘digital signature’ and this digital signature is recreated each time the fingertip is scanned. It is not possible for anyone to access or de-encrypt the digital signature. This technology is very secure and is commonly used within secondary schools across the UK.

Legislation came into effect in September 2013, which requires permission for us to use this system biometrically.

The catering system continues to interact seamlessly with ParentPay.

### **Overdraft Limit**

In principle, we operate on a “no debt” basis. In practice, however, when funds are for some reason, students will be able to incur an overdraft of up to £2.60. Under no circumstances can the overdraft amount be exceeded.

### **Spending Limits**

Students have a daily spending limit of £5.00 that can be spread between three services.

Any parents/carers wishing to change a limit, but have not already done so, should contact the kitchen at the Academy.

[kitchen.catering@toa.set.org](mailto:kitchen.catering@toa.set.org)

For children receiving Free School Meals (FSM), any spending limit will exclude the £2.60 FSM contribution.