



## UFFCULME SCHOOL

Chapel Hill, Uffculme, Devon, EX15 3AG, 01884 840458  
secretary@uffculmeschool.net www.uffculmeschool.net

March 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### **CASHLESS SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE**

As from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 we are implementing a new system in the dining room for school meals and would appreciate your support. The new system will provide a more efficient, faster and better quality of service.

The new system uses the latest Biometric Technology and will eliminate the need to carry a fob or cash within the school. The system scans a thumb at the till and debits the relevant account. Monies are credited to the accounts before purchases can be made as with the current fobs.

There will be three different options available to do this:-

- online payments using our ParentPay internet payment scheme,
- cash payments at a Top Up machine in school
- cheque payments to the Finance Office.

We would encourage online payments as they are more secure and will guarantee monies are being spent on School Meals rather than being misused.

New legislation recently introduced requires an 'opt in' arrangement and we therefore require the consent of at least one parent/carer in order to process the Biometric Data of your child.

This information remains within the school and is taken as a short string of encrypted numbers. It is **not** an actual thumb print and no images are seen. It is not used for any other purpose.

We are confident the new system will offer greater security and speed of service. This has been the experience of other schools which have been using this system for many years.

If you choose not to have your child registered on the system then they can retain their existing fob but it will have to be topped up by one of the methods above as there will be no cash accepted in the dining room

The FAQ on the next page will answer many of your questions but if you would like any more information, please feel free to contact me at the e-mail address below and I will be happy to help with any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

**Tony Aspden**  
**Academy Business Manager**  
[aspdent@uffculmeschool.net](mailto:aspdent@uffculmeschool.net)



**Uffculme Academy Trust**

(A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. No. 07338835) An exempt charity

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q.** Do you store thumbprint images?
- A.** *No, thumbprint images are not stored in our system.*
- Q.** Can anyone see a thumbprint image?
- A.** *No, thumbprint images are not seen. When a thumb is read it is converted into a unique number.*
- Q.** How do students purchase goods?
- A.** *They simply place their thumb on the scanner. Their Biometric Pattern is scanned and then converted to their account number, which is then debited.*
- Q.** How do we know the correct account number is being debited?
- A.** *The name and photo of the student appear on the Terminal screen confirming the identity to the operator. The account numbers are unique.*
- Q.** How can we check the account balance?
- A.** *After each transaction the remaining balance appears on the operator's screen. Balances are also available on ParentPay or at the Top-Up Machine.*
- Q.** What if I am entitled to Free School Meals?
- A.** *The system works exactly the same for all students whether they pay or have a free school meal. Extra cash can also be added to enable a greater daily spend.*
- Q.** Is there a limit to how much can be spent in one day?
- A.** *Yes, we can set a maximum spend per day and this can be varied for each student. In addition, if you are registered on ParentPay and we have your e-mail address, we can send you a weekly e-mail showing your child's balance as well as their food choices for the week.*



**Uffculme Academy Trust**

(A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. No. 07338835) An exempt charity

As the Live Date for the new Biometric System approaches we require the consent of at least one parent/carer in order to process the Biometric Data of your child.

This information remains within the school and is taken as a short string of encrypted numbers.

It is **not** an actual thumb print and no images are seen. It is not used for any other purpose.

The preferred method of payment within the dining room will be biometrics as it is more secure and provides a more efficient service with less queuing times.

Please complete the form even if your child never/or occasionally uses the catering facility. If you choose not to 'opt in' then the school will provide a fob as an alternative.

Please complete the form below and return to your child's tutor by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016

✂ -----

### **CASHLESS SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE**

Reply Slip: (Please return to your child's tutor by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016)

Pupil's Name.....

Tutor Group.....

I / We have received information on the new Biometric System and give consent / do not give consent (delete where applicable) for my child to be registered.

Signed.....

Name.....

Date.....

