



Biometric Technology in Schools and Colleges

Guidance for children and young people

Technology can be great for everyone and can often help do things faster and easier. It can help with getting information and storing it.



Schools and colleges can use technology to collect and store information about learners. Some information is called biometric information and is collected by using biometric technology. Schools in Wales and across the UK have used biometric technology for many years.

What is biometric information?

Biometric information can include:

- fingerprints
- face shape
- retina or iris in the eye
- hand measurements.



Biometric technology uses your biometric information to identify who you are.

There are different types of biometric technology:



**Fingerprinting
scanners**



**Facial recognition
technology that recognises
you by your face**

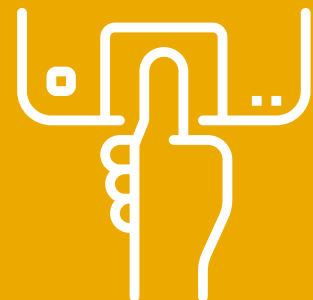


**Live Facial Recognition
Technology which uses cameras
directed towards a specific
area that can identify you**

Why and how is biometric information used?

Some schools or colleges might use a biometric system, such as a fingerprint system for registration, borrowing books or for paying for food.

Biometric information is very important and there are laws to ensure that schools and colleges keep it safe.



Schools and colleges must:



- ✓ Think about all other options before using biometric technology.
- ✓ Only collect your biometric information if you say it's OK.
- ✓ Offer you another way to access things like school meals if you don't give permission.
- ✓ Let you know if there is a new reason to collect or use your biometric information and ask for your permission again.
- ✓ Let your parent/carer know what biometric information they want to take and how they will use it.
- ✓ Tell you and your parent/carer that you have a right to say 'no'.
- ✓ Not take your biometric information without a letter or email from your parent/carer saying it's OK.

To let your school/college know that your parent/carer have changed their minds and no longer want to give permission, they only need to write:

'I [parent/carer name] no longer give permission for [name of school/college] to collect my child's, [name of young person], biometric information by using [insert, e.g. fingerprint, facial recognition etc].'

How will schools keep my information safe?

Schools and colleges must keep all information safe so that it is only them that can use it. They must not give it to anyone else, unless the law tells them that they can do this.

Schools and colleges must destroy your biometric information:

- when you leave school or college
- if you or your parents/carer change your minds about the school/college having the information



Learners' Rights

All children and young people in Wales have rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Article 12 gives you the right to express your views, feelings and wishes in all matters that affect you. Article 16 gives you the right to privacy. More information is available at: Children's Rights - Children's Commissioner for Wales (childcomwales.org.uk)

You can say 'no'!

If you don't want to provide your biometric information, then the school or college must not take it, even if your parents, or person caring for you, have given permission.

Making your voice heard

Schools and colleges should let you know that you have the right to say 'no'! If you would like some help with this you can get parents, a carer, friends or someone you trust, like a teacher or youth worker to speak up for you.

What is a Data Protection Impact Assessment?

The law says that schools and colleges must do an impact assessment to ensure that they protect any biometric information they may collect from you.



What is a Children's Rights Impact Assessment?

Children and young people have a right to take part in decisions that affect them. Any school or college that is considering collecting your personal or biometric information must complete a Children's Rights Impact Assessment.

Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

The ICO is there to help you. You can go to the ICO for help, or to report anything that doesn't feel right about the collection of your biometric information.

We have also published a biometric guidance for schools and colleges which you can see on the Welsh Government website: Protection of biometric information: guidance for schools and colleges.

