

## CASHLESS CATERING

Neston High School operates a fully cashless catering system giving parents the freedom to top up their child's catering account online at a convenient time for them. The additional benefit of a cashless system is that students who are entitled to a free school meal have their allowance uploaded automatically each day and their entitlement remains anonymous.

There are two options for payments: online and cash top-up machines located in the student entrance and The Refectory. Free school meals allowances are uploaded onto the system every morning with the option to top up extra amounts if parents wish to do so. The system is set up for biometric identification at the till point with the option for students to use a smart card if they prefer not to use the biometric element. It is necessary for parents to sign a consent form before your child is registered on the biometric system.

### **What is a Biometric Registration?**

When a person registers their fingerprint in BioStore, no image is saved. Instead approximately 40 to 60 minutia points are recorded – minutia points are the location and direction of where a ridge ends or splits in two. The rest of the information from the fingerprint is discarded.

The BioStore database is encrypted using AES256 – an industry standard and highly secure technology. All communications between applications and the database are also encrypted using AES256.

### **How is this then used to obtain a school meal?**

The student simply places their finger on a scanner or presents their smart card at the point of sale; a display will show the server the student's name, class and current cash balance held within the system. The selected food items will be entered into the system from an itemised keyboard while the amount spent and the new cash balance will show on the display.

### **How is money entered into the system?**

- (a) Online** via the secure payments portal at [www.scopay.com/neston](http://www.scopay.com/neston). Online payments are synchronised to the cashless catering system every 30 minutes.
- (b)** By 'Cash - Coin and Note' into an automatic cash revaluation terminal

### **How will the student be able to check what the current cash balance is held in the system at any one time? (a)**

By using the revaluation station. Place their finger or their smart card on the scanner their current cash balance will then be displayed. There is no need to deposit any money, just press the red button to finish. **(b)**

Also a Remote Display at the point of sale will show the new cash balance when the food service is finished.

### **Can parents set a daily spend limit?**

Yes - an individual spend limit of your choice can be set, to include a school dinner and break time snacks.

**What if the student does not hold a sufficient cash balance one day to pay for a school dinner?**

No student is refused a school meal because they have not brought their dinner money to school with them. The school will allow for the student to go into overdraft for one day. However the student would be expected to bring money with them the next day to repay the loan and re-credit the system by using the revaluation station.

**What about students entitled to a 'free school meal'?**

The system works exactly the same for all students whether they pay or have a free school meal. All students have their own account to use in exactly the same way. The amount allocated for the free school meal will be entered into the system by the software daily.

The system will then allow on a daily basis the required cash amount for each individual student to be allotted to their current cash balance. However, any under spend or missed dinner will be identified by the system and will not be added to the next day's balance. The student can also add extra cash on to his or her balance in the system by using the revaluation station, to enable a greater daily spend on the school dinner than allocated by their free meal allowance.

**Data Handling**

Certain data will be held on the system to enable accurate operation. This will include your child's name, class, photo, account balance and meal entitlement. This data will be handled under the guidelines of the data protection act and only used by parties directly involved with the implementation of the system. If you have any concerns please contact the business manager Mrs Phillips.

Biometric registration will take place on the first day of term, please ensure that you have returned your consent form before the end of July 2020. If you prefer to opt out of biometric cashless catering we can issue your child with a swipe card to use. The initial card is issued free and replacement cards are charged at £2.50 per card.