

Use of Biometrics – Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

From September 2013 schools and sixth form colleges need written parental consent to use pupils' biometric data in an automated recognition system.

The Act requires us to obtain the permission of at least one parent before processing a child's biometric information. The Act also prohibits us from processing a child's information if a parent withdraws his/her consent or otherwise objects.

We currently use biometric systems for catering, sixth form registration and library services. These systems work in the following way: a numerical value is derived from the child's fingerprint when it is first placed on the reading device; it is this numerical value which is then stored. Each time the child's fingerprint is subsequently re-read, a numerical value is again generated. This is compared with the set of stored values, uniquely identifying the child within the population of the school if a match is found.

School does not keep an image of the fingerprint.

Ripley St Thomas CE Academy has used biometric systems for many years now, and we have not had any issues with their use.

Please note that any objection to the use of your child's biometric data being used in our automated recognition system must be made to the Academy in writing.