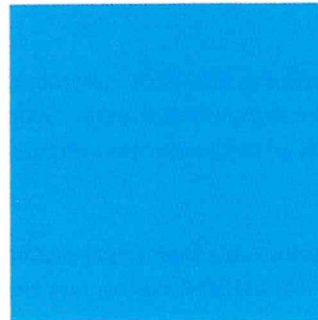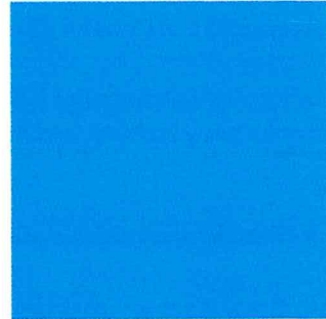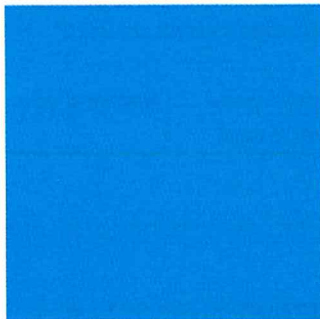# St. Martin's School

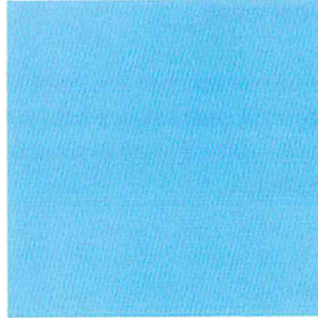# AN INSIGHT TO THE NEW CASHLESS SCHOOL MEALS SYSTEM FOR PARENTS AND PUPILS

What is a Cashless System?

At the heart of the cashless system there is a computer controlled by I.M.P.A.C.T. - Software. This allows the system to recognise each individual student, hold individual cash balances, record cash spent and cash received record where money is spent, on what food, on any specific date and time of day.

St. Martin's School

How are pupils recognised by the system?

Each student will have their fingerprint registered which will then be translated to an Alpha Numeric number, the image is then discarded, when used this will then enter them into the system program and identify them by a number.

How is this then used to obtain a school meal?

The student simply places their finger on a scanner at the point of sale; a display will show the server the student's name, year group 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?

By 'Cash Coin and Note' into an automatic cash revaluation terminal located in the school which is set to accept £20 £10 £5 notes £2 - £1 - 50p - 20p - 10p coins. (1p – 2p – 5p coins, cannot be used)

Or by topping up using your online account. You can do this by logging onto www...... Entering your username and password, and making a payment using either a debit/credit card.

How does the revaluation station work?

Firstly the student places their finger on the scanner mounted on the Revaluation Station to enter the I.M.P.A.C.T system which will display the student's name and current cash balance held within the system.

The second stage coins are inserted into the slot. Each incremental cash balance will show on the display. Press the red button to tell the system that the transaction is completed.

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 on the scanner display the current cash balance. 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.

(C)   Balances can be viewed by logging into your online account, both the balance and activity is available online.

If we pay for a set number of school meals, can it be spent in one day?

No, a daily spend limit of (£).00) will be set for all students and no food above that limit can be bought. On request, an individual student limit of your choice could also 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?

As before, no student is refused a school dinner because they have not brought their dinner money to school with them. The school will allow for the student to loan money for one day. However, just as before, the student would be expected to bring some money with them the next day to repay the loan and re-credit the system by using the revaluation station or by cheque payment to ".

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 and will only be accessible at dinner break.

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. As this allowance can only be spent on a school dinner, extra cash added into the system can also be used for break time snacks.

There will be no more queuing to be issued a 'free meal' tokens or having the students name entered into the 'free meal' register at the till point.

How will 'healthy eating' be encouraged?

After the new system has been operating for a while, we hope to enhance the school's 'healthy eating policy'. When the food is selected on the canteen server's keypad, it will also register points for a balanced, healthy and nutritious school dinner. At the end of the term the top scoring students will be identified and the winner receives an award.
What is meant by 'dietary control'?

Should the student have a specific food allergy, or be a diagnosed diabetic, this medical information can be coded into the system, preventing foods with allergy ingredients from being served to a particular student, by automatically locking out relevant buttons on the keyboard.

Will students have problems in using this system?

Some students may find it difficult to control their accounts for the first couple of weeks, but because of a daily spend limit, most learn this important life skill very quickly and will enjoy being in control of their account.

Will we be able to have any information on how the system is being used?

Reports can be obtained from the system giving comprehensive information on all aspects of use for each individual student as well as each day's service. These reports can be for a specific day or between any dates you wish, they will be dated and timed to the minute, and can be obtained from the Catering Department.

(a) To show every item of food served and the total cost of each serving.

(b) Individual payments made direct to the school by cheque or cash and manually entered into the system.

(c) Each payment made by cash at the revaluation station by the student and if required, even the number of individual coins and the denomination.

(d) A total overview to show the date, time and location with cost of each purchase, value of all manual cheque or cash payments, value of all cash deposited in the revaluation station and current cash balance

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 Mrs. Blackwood, School Business Manager 02920 858082

iDStore FAQs

What is iDStore?

iDStore is a central database located within a school, which stores the information which identifies pupils uniquely to each of the applications used at the school. iDStore requires each pupil to register only once, usually by placing a finger on a fingerprint scanner, although other identification methods are available.

Why use iDStore instead of other existing identification methods?

The centralised system of iDStore speeds up the registration process – each student need only register once, no matter how many applications requiring identification are in place at the school. With a Biometric system, students cannot borrow or steal credentials from each other, reducing the opportunities for bullying. Queues are reduced, because the rate of identification of students is quickened. Students need no longer carry cards, remember PIN numbers, or use cash to buy a meal. Biometric systems save time and money for both school and pupils because the need to replace lost cards and forgotten passwords is eliminated.

Does iDStore record images of individual fingerprints?

No, iDStore does not store images of fingerprints on its system, and never will. Only mathematical representations of certain points of a finger image are recorded, typically between ten and sixty depending on the characteristics of the finger. This mathematical data is encrypted and is called a template. The data is extremely secure in its encrypted form, and even if it were not encrypted it would be impossible to recreate the original fingerprint image from the stored data.

Is it possible to recreate a fingerprint from the data stored by iDStore?

No, the iDStore system only stores a short string of encrypted numbers called a template. The template stored contains too little data for the original print to be reconstructed.

How secure is the stored data?

The iDStore database is protected by a licence key, meaning that the database and any backup of its contents can only be accessed on licensed hardware. The hardware is stored in the school's own secure facility, so that the encrypted data is only available to the registered licensee. Even if a school's security were to be compromised and a backup of the database stolen, the encrypted data would still be unreadable, even by another school.

If I lose my bank card then it can be replaced. But I can't replace my finger. If a template is stolen, have I lost my identity forever?

The simple answer is no. When a finger is placed onto a scanner, the image is converted using a one way algorithm to turn the fingerprint into a template. This template is stored in the database, and is merely a string of encrypted numbers. If the template were to be removed from the database, it would be useless, because it cannot be converted back to a fingerprint.

Could the police or a court of law use the fingerprints stored in an IDStore database?

iDStore does not store fingerprint images. The recorded templates are comprised of a set of numbers which represent each person. This set of numbers will be unique within populations of a few thousand people. However, in a wider population the system is not accurate enough for the templates to be usable for forensic matching with any degree of certainty. A court of law would not be able to use this information as evidence.

What is the alternative for pupils whose parents object, or are unable to provide biometric data?

Alternative methods of identification, such as smart cards (swipe or proximity) and PINs are available within iDStore. The school can issue any pupil who wishes to opt out of, or is unable to use, biometric system with an alternative method of identification.