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CASHLESS PAYMENT SYSTEMS

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.