



# Inspire Education Trust

Together we achieve, individually we grow

## Biometric Information Policy

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**Policy Date:** March 2026

**Review Date:** March 2028

## Document History

Version	Status		Date	Author	Summary Changes
V1	Complete		29.01.2019	Jessica Sweet	V1
V2	Complete		24.12.2020	Jessica Sweet DPO for schools	Reviewed and changed GDPR to UK GDPR, changed review date to every 2 years
V3	Complete		17.02.2022	Paul Hewitt	Reviewed and migrated to new policy template
V3.1	Complete		09.05.2024	Martin Dorrington	Updated wording to reflect this being a Trust (not school) policy.
V4	Pending		19.01.2026	Martin Dorrington	Added reference to DUAA 2025 Updated Annex 1 to reflect new canteen biometric consent form. Updated responsible person for Biometric data.

## **Statement of intent**

Inspire Education Trust is committed to protecting the personal data of all its students and staff, this includes any biometric data we collect and process.

We collect and process biometric data in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance to ensure the data and the rights of individuals are protected. This policy outlines the procedure the Trust follows when collecting and processing biometric data.

This is done at Blue Coat CE School as the School operates a cashless system and is used within the canteen facilities for the purchase of food/drink.

## 1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:
  - Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
  - Data Protection Act 2018
  - UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
  - DfE (2018) 'Protection of biometric information of children in schools and colleges'
  - Data Use and Access Act 2025
- 1.2. This policy operates in conjunction with the following Trust policies:
  - Data Protection Policy
  - Record Retention Schedule
  - Data Breach Policy

## 2. Definitions

- 2.1. **Biometric data:** Personal information about an individual's physical or behavioural characteristics that can be used to identify that person, including their fingerprints, facial shape, retina and iris patterns, and hand measurements.
- 2.2. **Automated biometric recognition system:** A system which measures an individual's physical or behavioural characteristics by using equipment that operates 'automatically' (i.e. electronically). Information from the individual is automatically compared with biometric information stored in the system to see if there is a match in order to recognise or identify the individual.
- 2.3. **Processing biometric data:** Processing biometric data includes obtaining, recording or holding the data or carrying out any operation on the data including disclosing it, deleting it, organising it or altering it. An automated biometric recognition system processes data when:
  - Recording Students' biometric data, e.g. taking measurements from a fingerprint via a fingerprint scanner.
  - Storing Students' biometric information on a database.
  - Using Students' biometric data as part of an electronic process, e.g. by comparing it with biometric information stored on a database to identify or recognise Students
- 2.4. **Special category data:** Where biometric data is used for identification purposes, it is considered special category data.

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

- 3.1. The DPO and board of directors is responsible for:
  - Reviewing this policy every 2 years.
- 3.2. The headteacher is responsible for:
  - Ensuring the provisions in this policy are implemented consistently.

- 3.3. The data protection officer (DPO) is responsible for:
- Monitoring the Trust's compliance with data protection legislation in relation to the use of biometric data.
  - Advising on when it is necessary to undertake a data protection impact assessment (DPIA) in relation to the Trust's biometric system(s).
  - Being the first point of contact for the ICO and for data subjects.

#### **4. Data protection principles**

- 4.1. The Trust processes all personal data, including biometric data, in accordance with the key principles set out in the GDPR as amended.
- 4.2. The Trust ensures biometric data is:
- Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner.
  - Only collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes, and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes.
  - Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed.
  - Accurate and, where necessary, kept up-to-date, and that reasonable steps are taken to ensure inaccurate information is rectified or erased.
  - Kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed.
  - Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the information, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.
- 4.3. As the data controller, the Trust is responsible for being able to demonstrate its compliance with the provisions outlined in 4.2.

#### **5. Data protection impact assessments (DPIAs)**

- 5.1. Prior to processing biometric data or implementing a system that involves processing biometric data, a DPIA will be carried out.
- 5.2. The DPO will oversee and monitor the process of carrying out the DPIA.
- 5.3. The DPIA will:
- Describe the nature, scope, context and purposes of the processing.
  - Assess necessity, proportionality and compliance measures.
  - Identify and assess risks to individuals.
  - Identify any additional measures to mitigate those risks.
- 5.4. When assessing levels of risk, the likelihood and the severity of any impact on individuals will be considered.

- 5.5. If a high risk is identified that cannot be mitigated, the DPO will consult the ICO before the processing of the biometric data begins.
- 5.6. The ICO will provide the Trust with a written response (within eight weeks or 14 weeks in complex cases) advising whether the risks are acceptable, or whether the Trust needs to take further action. In some cases, the ICO may advise the Trust to not carry out the processing.
- 5.7. The Trust will adhere to any advice from the ICO.

## **6. Notification and consent**

Please note that the obligation to obtain consent for the processing of biometric information of children under the age of 18 is not imposed by the Data Protection Act 2018 or the UK GDPR. Instead, the consent requirements for biometric information is imposed by section 26 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

- 6.1. Where the Trust uses Students' biometric data as part of an automated biometric recognition system (e.g. using Students' fingerprints to receive school dinners instead of paying with cash), the Trust will comply with the requirements of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.
- 6.2. Prior to any biometric recognition system being put in place or processing a student's biometric data, the Trust will send the student's parents a Parental Notification and Consent Form for the use of Biometric Data Annexed to this Policy.
- 6.3. Written consent will be sought from at least one parent of the student before the Trust collects or uses a student's biometric data.
- 6.4. The name and contact details of the student's parents will be taken from the school's admission register on the Management Information System.
- 6.5. Where the name of only one parent is included on the admissions register, the headteacher will consider whether any reasonable steps can or should be taken to ascertain the details of the other parent.
- 6.6. The Trust does not need to notify a particular parent or seek their consent if it is satisfied that:
  - The parent cannot be found, e.g. their whereabouts or identity is not known.
  - The parent lacks the mental capacity to object or consent.
  - The welfare of the student requires that a particular parent is not contacted, e.g. where a student has been separated from an abusive parent who must not be informed of the student's whereabouts.
  - It is otherwise not reasonably practicable for a particular parent to be notified or for their consent to be obtained.
- 6.7. Where neither parent of a student can be notified for any of the reasons set out in 6.6, consent will be sought from the following individuals or agencies as appropriate:

- If a student is being 'looked after' by the LA or is accommodated or maintained by a voluntary organisation, the LA or voluntary organisation will be notified and their written consent obtained.
  - If the above does not apply, then notification will be sent to all those caring for the student and written consent will be obtained from at least one carer before the student's biometric data can be processed.
- 6.8. Notification sent to parents and other appropriate individuals or agencies will include information regarding the following:
- Details about the type of biometric information to be taken
  - How the data will be used
  - The parent's and the student's right to refuse or withdraw their consent
  - The Trust's duty to provide reasonable alternative arrangements for those students whose information cannot be processed
- 6.9. The Trust will not process the biometric data of a student under the age of 18 in the following circumstances:
- The student (verbally or non-verbally) objects or refuses to participate in the processing of their biometric data
  - No parent or carer has consented in writing to the processing
  - A parent has objected in writing to such processing, even if another parent has given written consent
- 6.10. Parents and students can object to participation in the Trust's biometric system(s) or withdraw their consent at any time. Where this happens, any biometric data relating to the student that has already been captured will be deleted.
- 6.11. If a student objects or refuses to participate, or to continue to participate, in activities that involve the processing of their biometric data, the Trust will ensure that the student's biometric data is not taken or used as part of a biometric recognition system, irrespective of any consent given by the student's parent(s).
- 6.12. Students will be informed that they can object or refuse to allow their biometric data to be collected and used via the consent form Annexed to this Policy. Parents should also be told of their child's right to object or refuse and be encouraged to discuss this with their child.
- 6.13. Where staff members or other adults use the Trust's biometric system(s), consent will be obtained from them before they use the system.
- 6.14. Staff and other adults can object to taking part in the Trust's biometric system(s) and can withdraw their consent at any time. Where this happens, any biometric data relating to the individual that has already been captured will be deleted.
- 6.15. Alternative arrangements will be provided to any individual that does not consent to take part in the Trust's biometric system(s), in line with section 7 of this policy.

## **7. Alternative arrangements**

- 7.1. Parents, students, staff members and other relevant adults have the right to not take part in the Trust's biometric system(s).
- 7.2. Where an individual objects to taking part in the Trust's biometric system(s), reasonable alternative arrangements will be provided that allow the individual to access the relevant service, e.g. four-digit code can be used to make payment.
- 7.3. Alternative arrangements will not put the individual at any disadvantage or create difficulty in accessing the relevant service, or result in any additional burden being placed on the individual (and the student's parents, where relevant).

## **8. Data retention**

- 8.1. Biometric data will be managed and retained in line with the Trust's Records Retention Schedule.
- 8.2. If an individual (or a student's parent, where relevant) withdraws their consent for their/their child's biometric data to be processed, it will be erased from the Trust's system within one calendar month.
- 8.3. Responsibility for ensuring the biometric data is erased lies with the Timetabling and Logistics manager.

## **9. Breaches**

- 9.1. There are appropriate and robust security measures in place to protect the biometric data held by the Trust. These measures are detailed in the Trust's Data Breach policy and the Biometric consent form. The Trust holds a contract with the processor providing the biometric service. This contract details the security measures in place to protect the biometric data held by the Trust.
- 9.2. Any breach to the Trust's biometric system(s) will be dealt with in accordance with the Data Breach policy.

## **10. Monitoring and review**

- 10.1. The DPO and board of directors will review this policy every two years.
- 10.2. The next scheduled review date for this policy is January 2028
- 10.3. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all staff, parents and Students.

# Annex 1

## Parental Notification and Consent Form for the use of Biometric Data

Dear parent / carer

### Biometric information and how it will be used

Biometric information is information about a person's physical or behavioural characteristics that can be used to identify them, e.g. their fingerprint. The school would like to collect and use the following biometric information from your child:

- A scan of your child's fingerprint
- A scan of your child's face

The school would like to use this information so the child can pay for their school meal using their fingerprint or facial recognition. Fingerprints and PINs (but not facial recognition) can also be used to access canteen cash balance readers inside the school.

The information will be used as part of an automated biometric recognition system. This system will take measurements of the biometric information specified above and convert these measurements into a template to be stored on the system. An image of your child's biometric information is not stored. The template (i.e. the measurements taken from your child) will be used to permit your child to access services.

The law places specific requirements on schools when using personal information, such as biometric information, about students for the purposes of an automated biometric recognition system. For example:

- The school will not use the information for any purpose other than those for which it was originally obtained and made known to the parent(s) (i.e. as stated above).
- The school will ensure that the information is stored securely.
- The school will tell you what it intends to do with the information.
- Unless the law allows it, the school will not disclose personal information to another person or body.

Please note, the school has to share the information with the following bodies:

- The school cashless canteen system provider, CRB Cunninghams
- The school canteen catering service (currently OCS)

This sharing is necessary in order for the electronic till system to operate.

### Providing your consent/objecting to the use of biometric data

Under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, we are required to notify each parent of a child and obtain the written consent of at least one parent before being able to use a child's biometric information for an automated system.

Consent given by one parent will be overridden if the other parent objects in writing to the use of their child's biometric information. Similarly, if your child objects to the use of their biometric information, the school cannot collect or use the information for inclusion on the automated recognition system.

You can also object to the proposed processing of your child’s biometric information at any time or withdraw any consent you have previously given. Please note that you must make any consent, withdrawal of consent or objection in writing.

Even if you have given your consent, your child can object or refuse at any time to their biometric information being collected and used – their objection does not need to be in writing. We would appreciate if you could discuss this with your child and explain to them that they can object if they want to.

The school is happy to answer any questions you or your child may have – please contact us via email to [admin@bluecoatschool.com](mailto:admin@bluecoatschool.com) with any questions.

If you do not wish for your child’s biometric information to be used by the school, or your child objects to such processing, the school will provide reasonable alternative arrangements for students who are not going to use the automated system to pay for school meals. This will consist of a unique PIN used to identify the child during payments, and to check their balance on the balance readers.

Please note that, when your child leaves the school or ceases to use the biometric system, their biometric information will be securely erased in line with the school’s Record Retention Schedule.

Please complete the form below to confirm if you do or do not consent to the collection and use of your child’s biometric information and return it to me as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

**[Individual name]**  
**Admissions and Communications Manager**



## Consent form for the use of biometric information

Please complete this form to confirm whether you provide consent for the school to collect and use the following biometric information relating to your child:

- A scan of your child's fingerprint
- A scan of your child's face

This biometric information will be used by the school for the following purpose:

The school would like to use this information so the child can pay for their school meal using their fingerprint or facial recognition.

Fingerprints and PINs (but not facial recognition) can also be used to access canteen cash balance readers inside the school.

Having read the guidance provided to me by Blue Coat School / Inspire Education Trust, I (please tick your selection):

Do consent to the processing of my child's biometric data (fingerprint)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do consent to the processing of my child's biometric data (face)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>or</i>	
Do NOT consent to the processing of my child's biometric data	<input type="checkbox"/>

### For parents that have provided consent

Please confirm that you have read and understood the following terms:

- I authorise the school to use my child's biometric information for the purpose specified above until either they leave the school or cease to use the system.
- I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time.
- I understand that, if I wish to withdraw my consent, I must do so in writing and submit this to [admin@bluecoatschool.com](mailto:admin@bluecoatschool.com).
- I understand that once my child ceases to use the biometric system, the school will securely delete my child's biometric information.

I confirm that I have read and understood the terms above

**For all parents/carers**

<b>Name of child:</b>	
<b>Name of parent:</b>	
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	

Please return this form to [Individual name], Admissions and Communications Manager, Blue Coat School as soon as possible.

Reviewed by: Martin Dorrington January 2026

Next Review Date: January 2028

Approved by Directors: 02.03.26

Signed:



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Lois Whitehouse  
CEO



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Jane Durkin  
Chair of Finance