

Cashless Catering and ParentPay

At Shenfield High School we have a cashless catering system which allows each student to have their own personal account allowing pre-payment for meals and snacks. This has a number of advantages:

- No cash is taken at the point of sale. Funds are put onto your child's personal account through an online system called "ParentPay"
- Students do not need to bring cash to school so it can't be lost or spent on anything else
- No last minute hunt for lunch money!
- Students entitled to free school meals cannot be identified by their peers
- Parents will be able to see what their child is purchasing
- Healthy eating is encouraged

How will it work?

The system uses biometric recognition based on measurements taken from a finger placed on a scanning device. The user's account is then debited appropriately for the food purchased.

Registration

All students will have their finger measurements taken on their first day at school.

The process is very quick, taking one or two minutes to complete.

Why do you need to scan my child's finger?

The scanner converts the finger measurements into a string of numbers and these are used in the recognition process. No image of the finger measurement itself is recorded and it is not possible to reconstruct the fingerprint from the numbers.

How do I pay my child's catering bill?

Each student has an account which can be "topped up" as frequently as you wish and at any time by using "ParentPay" over the internet – details will be available at the registration session or on the "ParentPay" link on the school website. For any further specific information, please contact the school at finance@shenfield.essex.sch.uk

How will you stop my child spending a week's money in one go?

Each account has a daily limit of £ 7.50 in place. You can alter this amount by contacting the Finance office at the school.

My child is entitled to free school meals – how will this work?

We will credit your child's account with the agreed daily amount (currently £2.75). This can only be used on a daily basis and any unspent balance is not carried forward. However, you can "top up" the account as explained above if you wish. There is no identification of the child as one entitled to free school meals outside of the school office.

How can my child check their balance?

The display at the point of sale will show the new cash balance after a purchase.

What if the balance is insufficient for my child to buy a lunch?

The school will provide a one day credit limit. However, it is required that the account is topped-up (by ParentPay) by the following day.

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 information will be handled under the guidelines of GDPR and only used by parties directly involved with the implementation of the system.

If you have any concerns, please contact the school.