

Abbotsholme School Library - Important Change To Pupil Borrowing System

Dear Parent or Carer,

Biometric Library System

I am excited to inform you that we will be implementing a new biometric library system at Abbotsholme School.

This is a technology that has been used successfully by many hundreds of schools and as a leadership team we are convinced that this is the right way forward for Abbotsholme. There has been some negative press on the subject of biometrics, so we are keen to provide an open forum for parents and carers on this issue.

We expect this system to improve the services we are able to offer students and staff significantly, with benefits including:

Students will have complete control over their borrowing of library resources.

Books borrowed cannot be signed out on other borrower's names alleviating wrongful charges for lost books.

Reduction in administration time and cost dealing with charges for lost books.

Raising the profile of the library and reading through the use of exciting technologies.

We would like to make it clear that Abbotsholme will comply at all times with the Data Protection Act and with the guidance given by Becta and by the Information Commissioner's Office regarding the use of biometric data.

Fingerprint images will not be stored by the system (instead, a set of coordinates is translated into a string of numbers and encrypted). The encryption method used by the system is a high level, industry standard method. The data held cannot be used to recreate a fingerprint image, nor can it be used in a forensic investigation.

If you would like more information or the chance to discuss this further, please feel free to contact Ian Housley-Tatton on the email address below.

We ask parents and carers to fill in the reply slip at the bottom of this letter to indicate that you give permission for your child to be enrolled into the biometric system. If the reply slip is not returned your child will not be enrolled in the biometric system but given a PIN and bar-coded card instead.

Yours faithfully,

Steve Fairclough
Headteacher

I give permission for _____ to be enrolled in the biometric system.

Signed:

Alternatively permission can be sent via email to: ian.housleytatton@abbotsholme.co.uk