



St Katherine's School



Dear Parent/Carer

CASHLESS CATERING SYSTEM, WORKING IN TANDEM WITH PARENTPAY

St Katherine's operates a cashless catering system for all dining facilities and no cash will be accepted at the till points.

This is a system that incorporates the latest technology and eliminates the need to carry cash throughout the day. It is also biometric so there is no need to carry a card as the system will recognise the thumb of your child at the tills.

The biometric system is based on fingerprint recognition technology. The system works by taking measurements of the fingerprint and converting it to numbers; they **do not** capture a complete image. This means that the original fingerprint cannot be reconstructed from the data. The biometric information will not be used for any reason other than for the express purpose for which it was collected.

If your child wishes to use the dining facilities you will need to pay into your ParentPay dinner money account. No money will be deducted from your account until your child makes a purchase at the tills. ParentPay activation details are attached.

The attached information hopefully should answer all your questions, but should this not be the case please contact our Finance Office by e-mail finance@skdrive.org or by phone - 01275 373737 option 3 for finance.

Please complete the attached form (form in booklet for new intake into Y7) and return to the School Support Office as soon as possible. We will take a biometric registration of your child once we have your permission.

Yours sincerely

Justin Humphreys
Headteacher

Headteacher: Justin Humphreys

St Katherine's School, Ham Green, North Somerset BS20 OHU

T: 01275 373737 **E:** school@stkaths.org.uk www.stkaths.org.uk

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USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT CASHLESS CATERING AT ST KATHERINE'S SCHOOL

Benefits the trust-e cashless system will bring to the school.

- Specific food allergy ingredients can be barred automatically.
- Healthy eating is encouraged.
- Discourages the misuse of school dinner money through spending in shops outside of the school grounds.
- Alleviates many of the associated problems with the use of cash in schools. i.e.: Loss, theft and bullying.
- Queuing times are reduced through increased speed of service.
- Automatic free meal allocation with the student remaining anonymous.
- Having control of student accounts by students teaching them important life skills.
- A more efficient delivery of service helps the canteen to provide wholesome, healthy and enjoyable school meals at a lower cost.
- Control of student accounts, ability to confirm money paid into the accounts and various other reports on all aspects of the system.

What is meant by 'dietary control'?

Should the student have a specific food allergy, or be 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.

Some Popular Questions and Answers

Q. How do I credit the account?

A. We can offer two methods of payment:

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1. Online payments using a credit/debit card. To make an online payment visit www.parentpay.com. If you have not yet activated your account details of your login are attached. Please put an e-mail address into ParentPay so that we can contact you. If you have more than one child you will be able to merge their accounts once you have activated each one.
2. by cash at your nearest Paypoint. You will need to request a barcoded PayPoint letter from the school, which you can use everytime you need to top up the account. Please contact our Finance Office by e-mail - finance@skdrive.org or by phone – 01275 373737 option 3 for finance.

Q. How do I check if I have credit on my account?

A. Log on to ParentPay for your account details. If you pay by PayPoint you will still be able to see how much you have paid in by logging into ParentPay.

Q. Can I limit the amount my child spends each day?

A. There will be a daily 'spend limit' programmed into the system of £4.50, this can be increased or decreased for an individual student by making a written request to the School's Finance Office. We reserve the right to allow the student to go over this limit when they are handling unwrapped food of which can not be hygienically returned to the counter.

Q. My child is entitled to a free meal, how does it work?

A. The allowance is credited to your account each day to allow your child to purchase a meal, if the meal on the day is over the free school meal allowance then the additional amount will show as a debt on your child's account which you will be liable for. (This allowance if not used will **not** carry over to the next day).

Q. Can anyone else use my account?

A. No – the till will recognise your child's thumb and a photo image of each student will appear on the till.

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