

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

School Biometric System

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 please could you supply the following information within 20 working days:

- CONSULTATION

- 1) Please supply any minutes of meetings and or emails where the implementations of biometric systems were discussed. i.e. Governor, children, parent forums, Salford LEA.
- 2) Please provide minutes of meetings where methods *other than* biometrics discussed as a sole option i.e. PIN or swipe card, (which do not contain biometric data or face reading software) for children and reasons why were they not chosen for implementation.
- 3) Advise, if any, sources of advice on biometric technology, other than the biometric vendor, that were used to determine whether biometrics were an appropriate technology for the purpose the school needed, and please forward copies of communications with all advisers.
- 4) Advise if a cost benefit analysis been done (to include running costs of security systems).
- 5) Please advise if a consultation with parents has been discussed within the Board of Governors meetings and the conclusions.

- CONSENT

- 6) To date since your letter 5th February 2013 has been issued, please advise if there are any children who have not consented to giving their biometrics.
- 7) To date since your letter 5th February 2013 has been issued, how many parents have not consented to their children's biometrics being taken and/or processed?
- 8) With respect to the letter dated 5th February, what efforts have you made to contact both parents in cases where parents registered on your database have different addresses?
- 9) Please advise what measures the school will undertake to ensure that a revised letter of consent which complies with the law will reach both parents, and if the school will be contacting those who have already replied by post.
- 10) What alternative method is in place for a child not wishing to participate in the biometric scheme the school is offering? Will this method be confirmed as not containing biometric data or RFID chip?
- 11) Please advise what measures the school has undertaken before issuing the letter on 5th February to be certain that all children understand the implications of giving their fingerprints, to include their right to consent at any time; in other terms how are/were the children fully informed?
- 12) Please advise what measures the school will undertake after receiving the request via email from a parent for an amended letter of consent on 22nd February to be certain that all children understand the (possible and or future) implications of giving their fingerprints, in other terms how are the children to be fully informed?
- 13) Please advise if biometric data is planned to be taken from children that are either on the register as having any learning difficulties/special needs or children that have English as a second language and please advise any special efforts made in this circumstance to contact and gain consent from both parents?

- FINANCE

- 14) Please advise how much the biometric/cashless system cost. Please advise a figure/s in order not to exempt this

question from Freedom of Information Act 200, Part 2 - Exempt Information, Section 43 - Commercial Interest.

15) Please advise any yearly licensing or supporting costs to run the biometric system. Please advise a figure/s in order not to exempt this question from Freedom of Information Act 200, Part 2 -Exempt Information, Section 43 - Commercial Interest.

16) How many other companies were considered in this particular supply of biometric/cashless services? Please advise who they were and provide details of their consultation.

17) Please detail budget/monies that were used to purchase it. i.e Building Schools for the Future, eLearning Credits, Harnessing Technology Grant, schools funds.

18) Please advise the person, either within the school or not, that authorised the payment for the biometric system, and the date.

- DATA PROTECTION and TRANSPARENCY

19) Please advise the last time the school internally undertook a Data Protection Compliance Audit (or any such audit similar to this) or advise the last time a Data Protection Compliance Audit was undertaken by the Information Commissioner's Office at the school.

20) Please advise the estimated cost of gaining permission from parents in order to comply with the Protections of Freedoms Act, in that every child's biometric data held on St Ambrose Barlow RC school's biometric database must have written parental consent by 1st September 2013.

21) Please advise the reason why there is no mention on St Ambrose Barlow RC School's website of the biometric system intended. If there is no reason please advise when St Ambrose Barlow RC School's website will contain details of the biometric system.

If you need further clarification, please contact me by email. My preferred format to receive the information is electronically, but I can accept hard copies. Some parts of this request may be easier to answer than others and in such case please could you release available data as soon as possible rather than delay the entire request.

If the costs of processing this request exceed the limit in the Act, please advise on what information you are able to supply within the cost limit.

I look forward to your response within 20 working days, as outlined by the statute.