February 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

The school is now using a biometric student identification system. The system works by using the individual’s finger as a form of identification. The student simply places their finger on the screen of the kiosk, this is recognised by the program and activates the roll marking procedure.

The school has in the past successfully used a biometric student identification system to borrow books from the school library. The system was trialed last year with students who arrive late to accurately register their attendance on the school’s official roll using the biometric kiosk that is connected to the schools attendance system. The kiosk is situated on the verandah of the main office where students can quickly register their attendance and move directly to class, the kiosk will automatically print a late slip to inform the class teacher of their late arrival.

By using this system the school is able to quickly manage and register student attendance accurately. The identification systems use the finger to uniquely identify each student and member of staff. The system measures many aspects of the finger to do this. Each student has his or her fingerprint registered, which is translated into a unique identification code, which is entered into our schools secure student management system.

The school biometric attendance system NEVER STORES images of fingerprints on its system, and will never do so. Only a mathematical representation of certain points of a finger image is recorded, typically between ten and sixty depending on the characteristics of the finger. The mathematical information is encrypted and is called a template. This data is extremely secure in its encrypted form, but even if it were not encrypted it would be impossible to recreate the original fingerprint image from the stored mathematical data (long sequence of computer generated characters, numbers and letters).

A centralised biometric attendance system speeds up the roll marking process for late arrivals – each student need only register once, no matter how many applications requiring identification are in place in the school. With a biometric system, students cannot borrow or impersonate another student making attendance records extremely accurate.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Mr Avalos on the phone number listed above or email me; danny.avalos@dow.catholic.edu.au

Yours faithfully

Mr Danny Avalos
Learning Technologies Coordinator

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal