



# Protection of Biometric Information of Pupils

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### **What is biometric data?**

1) Biometric data means personal information about an individual's physical or behavioural characteristics that can be used to identify that person; this can include their fingerprints, facial shape, retina and iris patterns, and hand measurements.

2) The Information Commissioner considers all biometric information to be personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 1998; this means that it must be obtained, used and stored in accordance with that Act (see relevant paragraphs below).

3) The Protection of Freedoms Act includes provisions which relate to the use of biometric data in schools and colleges when used as part of an automated biometric recognition system. These provisions are in addition to the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

### **What is an automated biometric recognition system?**

1) An automated biometric recognition system uses technology which measures an individual's physical or behavioural characteristics<sup>3</sup> by using equipment that operates 'automatically' (i.e. electronically). Information from the individual is automatically compared with biometric information stored in the system to see if there is a match in order to recognise or identify the individual.

2) Biometric recognition systems can use many kinds of physical or behavioural characteristics.

### **Biometric Data at The Bridge School**

Currently, the school does not collect biometric information. It does not use biometric systems for registration or other forms of ID. If this policy changes, parents and carers will be consulted and fully advised before it is introduced.