

The School is a cashless society through the implementation of a 'Cashless Catering' system. By removing cash from the school it reduces the social risk to students, makes vast administration savings and gives parents a more convenient and flexible way to make payments for educational visits, learning resources, equipment and school lunches. A cashless society gives peace of mind to parents that money is reaching the school safely and promptly and that lunch funds can be spent within the school on healthy meals.

The Payment System

Cashless payment systems offer parents and carers the ability to top-up or purchase items assigned to their child's account quickly and easily with a debit or a credit card. We are planning to change to a different payment system for September 2025, to match other software we are already using. All parents/carers will be provided with a secure online account which is accessed with a unique user ID and password. An electronic record of all payments can be viewed online at any time.

To enable an accurate operation some personal information will have to be transferred from the School to The external company. This data will be held securely under the strict guidelines of the Data Protection Act and, therefore, is only used by parties directly involved with the system. The data that will be transferred will be name, date of birth, address and Free School Meals (FSM) entitlement. Parents/Carers will be responsible for adding their own account details to ensure the transfer of funds.

Cashless Catering System (Cunninghams)

The cashless system allows us to recognise each individual student. We can hold balances, record spend and receipts, identifying what food and drink is consumed on any specific date and time of day. The cashless system is based on 'Biometric Finger patterns' which follow Government and BECTA guidelines. Each student has their finger pattern registered which is then translated into an alphanumeric number which identifies an individual. No images of 'fingerprints' are ever recorded.

How do students obtain food and drink?

The student simply collects the food and drink items they wish to consume and then places their finger on a scanner at the point of sale. Café staff are able to see the balance on the account and any allergy or food restrictions which may have been notified to the school. The ability to make cashless transactions reduces the need for any student to carry money within school. It is the student's/parent's/carer's responsibility to make sure that their School Lunch account is in credit.

This also allows students claiming Free School Meals (FSM) to purchase food and drink in the café by placing their finger on a scanner at the point of sale. No other students will be aware of Free School Meals eligibility.

What are the limits to the amount that can be spent each day?

If you wish to set a daily spend limit please contact the Finance Officer at Wallington County Grammar School, via the online system, or by emailing accounts@wcgschool.co.uk and marking your email for the attention of the Finance Officer.

What do I do if I have unreliable internet access at home?

Parents/Carers who have unreliable internet access or who encounter difficulty in using their online account are encouraged to contact the Finance Officer at Wallington County Grammar School, to discuss alternative arrangements.