

Protection of biometric information in schools and colleges guidance

On 4 July a revised version of the above non-statutory guidance was published on the [Welsh Government website](#).

A new children and young people (C&YP) friendly version of the guidance has also been published as is available to share.

Welsh Government officials have consulted with several agencies including the Information Commissioner's Office, the Biometrics Commissioner, the Children's Commissioner for Wales and Defend Digital Me. Their feedback helped inform the revised guidance.

The C&YP version was developed with the help of young learners along with the Children's Rights Advisory Group and Young Wales.

The main biometric guidance has been amended to:

- Reinforce the message that learners have a choice regarding the collection of their biometric data. They can opt in or opt out of the biometric processing system at any time without any detrimental effect to the services they receive from their school or college;
- Encourage schools and colleges to consider alternative options to biometric systems which are less intrusive and can deliver the same level of services for learners;
- Highlight the need for schools and colleges to consider Articles 12 and 16 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. (UNCRC) which relates to young people's rights to express their views and their privacy;
- Highlight the statutory requirement for schools and colleges to undertake a Data Protection Impact Assessment when processing biometric data;
- Provide detailed information on how schools and colleges should undertake a Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) when they collect learners' biometric data;
- Highlight the need for schools and colleges to provide privacy information to learners, that complies with UKGDPR; and
- Provide information about Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) and further additional obligations if schools/colleges are planning to use this biometric system.