

School Fingerprinting - Things You Should Know.

Recently we all received a letter explaining that our children will be *'fingerprinted'* as part of the new library system, with re-assurances as to its security and use. However, this is only **half the story**. This system is an invasion of your child's privacy. There is nothing in place to protect this data and could result in affecting our children for the rest of their lives. The school has been fed misinformation by the manufacturers of the system being employed.

Please visit this website for more information: www.leavethemkidsalone.com. However, the main details below:

- They say it's not an actual fingerprint that's stored, but a *'number'*. What is in fact stored is a **fingerprint template**. This is a universal template employed by the Police, the security services and governments to identify criminals.
- In future they will also be used to authenticate passports, bank accounts, etc. **Thus the data is very valuable**. If stolen, your child will be at risk of **identity fraud** in the future.
- It is possible to extract a full fingerprint scan from the stored template. This has already been achieved by German researchers.
- There's nothing in place to prevent the authorities from obtaining this data in future and storing them in a central criminal database.
- The information provided to parents thus far has been done at very short notice, and no time is given for parents to challenge the system.
- The claims of the manufacturers are being used as **statements of fact**, most of which are **incorrect**.
- **This is an unregulated practice**. Manufacturers are seizing on the opportunity to get these systems installed in schools. If unregulated, how can we be sure that these companies will not abuse the data later?
- The fingerprinting part of the system is optional. **You do not need to have your child fingerprinted in order to use the library**. My son has not been fingerprinted and can still use the library without any problems.

I have already written a letter to the school and spoken to Mrs. <Blank> about this system, but I have also taken it upon myself, with the kind support of other parents, to try and get the message across.

Remember, this has been done **without your consent** and at very short notice. **Why not seek consent first, like they do for everything else?** They say they are complying with all the legal requirements in terms of its use. But it's not compliance that's the issue here – it's moral!

So, if you value your child's privacy, please visit the site above for further information (things I can't cover on one page!) and contact the school to have your child's fingerprint data removed from their systems, by either contacting the school direct or handing in the form below.

If you feel strongly about this, please also contact our local MP and councillors and make your voices heard!

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I do not give authority for my child's fingerprints to be stored on the schools computer systems and kindly ask that any data already taken be destroyed by **an approved data cleansing company** as required by the **Data Protection Act**.

Childs Name Class

Signed Date