

Introduction:

Pinecone Associates employ a range of technology and work with other partners to produce innovative products and solutions that make the administration of school life easier.

One of the major burdens within schools is handling money. Our products automate this process allowing greater productivity and efficiency within the schools administration and finance team.

Our product (IdentiTrip) covers the handling of cash for school trips, school shop and gift aid. We also promote cashless catering, library and access control system of our partners.

What all our products and partner products have in common is that they use biometric technology to identify the customer at the point of sale or use. Our product uses a common biometric database populated with pupil information from the schools MIS system.

Why do we use biometric technology? Because it allows high speed searching for an individuals account, it is reliable and most of all, because staff / pupils don't generally lose their index finger as is often the case with swipe cards. You always carry your identity with you. Registration need only be performed once.

Our Products:

How do our products help you?

IdentiTrip allows quick and efficient processing of payments for trips or events within your school or college. The system creates instant receipts and provides an audit trail for all transactions. Reports can be generated by the finance team independent of the administration process. Our current customers say that IdentiTrip is so quick and easy to use, it is hugely beneficial and makes a difficult and time consuming task far less of a burden.

The Shop module to IdentiTrip allows the school to sell services and items to the pupils and staff. Services could be music lessons, revision guides etc or items such as calculators, rules. The Shop module builds on the same principles of a centrally managed point reducing the administration burden.

The Gift Aid module allows the Business Manager, Finance Manager or Bursar to reclaim IR tax where parents have indicated that they are prepared to gift aid appropriate donations to the school. The Gift Aid module to IdentiTrip enables the school to quickly and seamlessly create the returns required to support the claim to the "Inland Revenue." This facility could provide schools with an additional 28pence in the pound for every pound Gift Aided.

Cashless Catering . The system promoted by Pinecone Associates as a VAR is used within Schools, Colleges, Universities, Visitor Attraction Centres, and Business across the UK. Cashless catering systems can be provided with a choice of biometric scanners, swipe cards or smart cards. Only IBM EPOS terminals and ancillaries are used. The one issue within schools regarding cashless catering is the use of swipe cards. Pupils often lose, break or forget their cards leaving an administrative burden for the school office. Biometric technology allows schools an alternative option either from the outset or at a later date.

Access Control uses the same biometric technology and can limit or restrict movement dependent on access rights of the individual. Door scanners can be provided to replace keys to each classroom.

"Our Skills Make Your Job Easier"