



Waddesdon Village Primary School

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A Pathway to Excellence

AirTags and other location trackers

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you to let you know about our school's new guidance on the use of AirTags and other location trackers.

What are location trackers?

AirTags are small, remote tracking devices which are often used to keep track of the location of luggage and personal items such as keys and wallets. Some other devices, such as watches and smartphones, may also offer this functionality.

Although often not designed for this purpose, tracking devices are sometimes used by parents and carers to track their child's location.

Our policy on the use of trackers

We understand that location trackers such as AirTags can provide reassurance to parents and carers, particularly those whose children travel a long distance to and from school or who are going on a school trip.

However, we are concerned about:

- **Unauthorised tracking:** where a pupil is tracked without their knowledge, or by a person who has no legal access to them. Trackers can also indicate the location of anyone travelling with the pupil who has not consented to be tracked in this way
- **Additional functions:** alarms, two-way communication, remote listening capability and other functions that some trackers provide can be disruptive and raise data protection and legal concerns
- **Increasing anxiety:** disruptions to expected location data – due to unavoidable changes of route or plan (e.g. on a school trip), or to device loss or malfunction – can cause anxiety to both parents & carers and to pupils and staff who are aware of potential parent/carer worry

For these reasons we have decided **not** to allow location tracking devices on school grounds, on school trips or at off-site events.

If we do find that a pupil is carrying or using a tracking device, we will confiscate it until the end of the school day.

Please see the guidance below (appendix 1) for the full details of our school rules around tracking devices.

If you have any questions about this please contact Miss Laura Forchione via email at:

office@waddesdonprimary.com

Kind regards,

Miss Laura Forchione
Headteacher and DSL



Registered Charity Number 1191949



Guidance on the Use of Tracking Tags such as Apple AirTags on School Trips

Purpose of this Guidance

The purpose of this guidance is to outline the school's position on the use of tracking tags such as Apple AirTags on children during school trips. While we understand that parents and carers may have concerns about their child's safety, the use of such devices raises significant safeguarding, privacy, and security concerns. As such, the use of tracking tags on school trips is not permitted.

Key Concerns

1. Privacy and Data Protection

- Tracking devices can raise significant privacy concerns as they can track a child's location without their informed consent.
- Schools have a duty to protect all children's personal data, and the use of tracking devices could compromise this responsibility.

2. Safeguarding Risks

- Tracking devices can inadvertently reveal the real-time location of a group of children, which poses a significant risk—especially for pupils under protection orders, in foster care, or with specific safeguarding needs.
- If lost or misplaced, a tracking device could be misused, potentially putting a child at risk.
- Parents using tracking devices to post the exact location of a class or group of children on social media platforms, places the safety of all the children and staff at risk and specific children who may be fleeing Domestic Violence or who may be subject to court orders.

3. Disruption to School Trip Management

- Teachers and staff are responsible for the supervision and safety of all pupils during trips. The use of tracking devices may create unnecessary confusion and interfere with established safety protocols.
- School staff undertake extensive safety preparation and planning prior to trips. This includes robust risk assessment and contingency planning which would enable them to respond to any unforeseen circumstances while away from school.

4. Other Implications

- If a pupil is carrying a tracking device, teachers or other pupils might receive alerts, creating confusion or concern.
- If a tracking device beeps unexpectedly, it could cause unnecessary panic during a school trip.
- There is a risk of unauthorised individuals detecting or following a tracking device, making it a potential security and safeguarding issue.

School Policy on Tracking Devices

- In line with this school guidance, personal tracking devices such as AirTags are not permitted on school trips.
- Parents should trust the school's supervision and safeguarding policies, which are designed to ensure children's safety at all times.
- If parents have specific concerns about their child's wellbeing on a school trip, they should communicate these directly with the school prior to the trip.
- Any tracking device found in use on a school trip will be removed and returned to parents at the end of the trip.

Alternative Safety Measures

- The school will continue to implement rigorous safeguarding procedures, including appropriate staff to pupil ratio, regular headcounts, buddy systems, and designated meeting points.
- Staff will always be available to support and supervise children throughout the trip.
- Parents will be provided with clear contact information should they need to reach the school during the trip.
- When children are off-site, when needed (for example to provide an estimated time of arrival if this differs from our original ETA) we provide updates through ParentMail which is a secure channel, appropriately protected and only accessible to parents.

By implementing this policy, we aim to maintain a safe, secure, and well-organised environment for all children during school trips. We appreciate the cooperation of parents and guardians in ensuring that school outings remain a positive and safe experience for all pupils.