

Bentley CEVC & Copdock Primary Schools AirTag and Location Tracker policy

Approved by: Personnel and Communication Committee

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Purpose

This policy outlines the federation's position on the use of Apple AirTags and similar Bluetooth or GPS-enabled tracking devices by parents/guardians to monitor the location of their child during school hours (e.g. Apple AirTags, Tile, GPS trackers) on school property and educational visits to protect the safety, privacy, and well-being of all pupils, staff, and visitors.

Background

We understand that families value their children's safety and may seek reassurance through the use of tracking technology. However, such devices raise important concerns related to privacy, distraction and safeguarding.

Definition of Tracking Devices

Tracking devices include, but are not limited to:

- Apple AirTags
- Tile trackers
- GPS-enabled smartwatches
- Any device capable of transmitting or logging real-time location data

Policy Guidelines

1.Prohibited Uses

The following uses are strictly prohibited:

- Use of Air Tags and tracking devices by parents/carers to track their children at school or during educational visits
- Using tracking devices to spy, harass, or stalk other pupils or staff
- Concealing tracking devices in another person's belongings without their knowledge or consent
- Recording audio or video in violation of school policies or applicable laws

2. Privacy Considerations

The use of tracking devices can compromise the privacy of other pupils, staff or the school's operational routines.

Devices that also have audio capabilities (even if not actively used) are not permitted, due to safeguarding concerns.

3. School Authority

The school reserves the right to inspect or request the removal of any device that it may become aware of or may interfere with learning, compromise privacy, or raise safeguarding concerns as per our behaviour policy.

4. Communications

If parents/carers have urgent concerns during the school day or on an educational visit, they are expected to contact the school office rather than communicate with their child through tracking devices. Likewise, if parents/carers have concerns about educational visit risk assessments and safety measures, the class teacher should be contacted in the first instance.

5.Home-School Partnership

We strive to work in partnership with families and by enrolling a child at our federation, parents are implicitly agreeing to abide by the school's policies and regulations. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the school and seek clarification if they are unsure about a policy.

Conclusion

We appreciate the desire to keep children safe and we aim to balance that with maintaining a secure, respectful and distraction-free learning environment. Parents are encouraged to speak with school staff about any concerns or special circumstances regarding their child's safety and well-being.