

# Lacey Green Primary Academy

## Tracker and Smart Watch Policy

Policy Reviewed and Agreed: March 2025



Lacey Green Primary Academy does not permit children to wear tracking devices or smart watches in school, on school visits, at after school club or on residential visits.

### What are location trackers?

Location trackers such as 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 smart watches and smartphones, may also offer this functionality.

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

We understand that location trackers such as AirTags can provide reassurance to parents and carers, when children are not in school and are on their own or with friends, unaccompanied.

There is no need to track your child/ren when they are in school or on any external visit as they are always supervised by staff. The reasons we are concerned and do not allow tracking are:

- **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. When an AirTag is in close proximity to an Apple device (e.g. an iPhone) for a period of time, it notifies Apple device owners of its presence even if the AirTag is not connected to those people. Those people can then attempt to locate the AirTag (including by making it emit a noise) and in some cases disable it.
- **It is illegal to track adults without their consent.** Any adult accompanying a trip would need to consent to being tracked by an accompanying pupil's tracker.
- **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
- **Loss or damage:** School does not allow the wearing of jewellery in school or on trips other than a watch (not a Smart watch due to tracking potential) due to the risk of loss or damage.

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