Bridgewater Primary

Together rain or shine

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Use of AirTags / Location Trackers in school

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you to let you know about our policy 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 or belongings.

Our policy on the use of trackers

We understand that location trackers 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:** unavoidable changes to routes or plans (e.g. during a school trip), or device loss/malfunction, can lead to disruptions in expected location data. This may cause anxiety for parents/carers, as well as for pupils and staff who are aware of the potential worry this will generate.
- **Interference with medical devices:** trackers can cause interference with medical devices such as pacemakers and ICDs (implantable cardioverter defibrillators). A child wearing a tracker in close physical proximity to someone using such a device could impact the function of the medical device.

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 our Mobile Phone and Devices Policy for the full details of our school rules around tracking devices.

Thank you,

Bridgewater School

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