



Personal Tracking Device Policy

Last Updated: April 2026
Update Required: April 2028

At Denham Village School, our overarching safeguarding aim is to ensure every child is Happy and Safe. We understand and respect the desire for peace of mind regarding your child's security, especially during the journey to and from school. To ensure we balance individual family needs with the collective safety, privacy, and happiness of our school community, we have developed the following policy regarding personal tracking devices, such as AirTags.

Air Tags, and other similar tracking devices, should not be used to track children/people. If a tracking device is found it will be removed and disabled.

Tracking people using AirTags is forbidden by Apples Terms of use.

Apple have stated "AirTag was designed to help people locate their personal belongings, not to track people or another person's property".

Our Shared Goals

We believe that by working together, we can create an environment that fosters both safety and personal growth. This policy is guided by our **Happy and Safe** commitment:

- **Community Safeguarding:** Protecting the privacy of all children is a collective responsibility. Tracking devices can unintentionally share the location of student groups, which may compromise the privacy of pupils with specific safety requirements.
- **A Focused Learning Environment:** Devices like AirTags can trigger anti-stalking alerts on staff phones or emit sounds during lessons. By keeping these devices inactive, we ensure a calm atmosphere where children can be **happy** and focused on their learning.
- **Building Confidence:** Part of being **happy and safe** is feeling confident in one's own abilities. Learning to manage the school day without a "digital tether" helps pupils build the self-reliance and problem-solving skills they need to feel secure in themselves.

Safety & Safeguarding

While these devices are helpful for finding lost items, their use in a school setting presents specific challenges that we must manage together:

- **Digital Visibility:** AirTags operate by "pinging" nearby devices. In a school environment, this creates a digital trail of our students' movements. To keep our school safe, we must ensure that the precise location of our classrooms and play areas is not being broadcast to external networks.
- **Unintended Alerts:** Modern smartphones alert users if an unknown AirTag is moving with them. Active tags in bags can trigger these alerts on visitors' phones as well as school iPads, causing unnecessary security alarms.
- **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.
- **Safeguarding Risks of Information Sharing:** We kindly ask that parents refrain from sharing screenshots or live updates of their child's location (e.g., via social media or parent WhatsApp groups) while they are in our care. Sharing this information publicly or within large groups can inadvertently:
 - Expose the exact location of a school trip or class outing to individuals outside the school community.
 - Compromise the safety of other children in the group who may have specific legal or safety protections requiring their location to remain private.
 - Create unnecessary alarm if a "ping" is delayed or inaccurate, leading to misinformation spreading quickly within the parent community.

How We Can Work Together

To support both your family's needs and the school's duty of care, we ask for your cooperation with the following:

- **Open Dialogue:** If you have specific concerns about your child's safety, please come and speak with us. We are happy to discuss our internal security measures so we can ensure your child feels **Happy and Safe** together.
- **School Trips:** For off-site visits, we provide high ratios of staff supervision. To ensure the privacy and safety of the whole group, we request that trackers are left at home.

Our Commitment to You

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. The device then needs to be collected by an adult.

The school team remains vigilant and dedicated to the security and the care of every child. We thank you for your partnership in keeping Denham Village School a place where every pupil is truly

Happy and Safe.