



# CATALYST

## Quarry Hill Academy

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### Apple AirTags and Tracking/Bluetooth Technology

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take a moment to address the growing use of tracking devices, such as Apple AirTags, and the potential safety and privacy concerns associated with them. While these devices have gained popularity, they are **not designed for tracking children** and should **never be used to monitor a child or be worn during any school event**. When used improperly, AirTags can pose serious risks, compromising the safety of others, invading privacy, and violating human rights. Apple has made it clear that they do not condone the use of AirTags for tracking people (see their official stance here: [Apple's Update on AirTags and Unwanted Tracking](#)).

On school trips, we have a strict policy prohibiting students from carrying any Bluetooth-enabled devices, including AirTags, as they can pose significant security risks to the entire group.

#### In summary:

- The use of AirTags in this manner may violate the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**.
- This behaviour can have long-term negative effects on **family dynamics and children's mental health**.
- **AirTags broadcast signals that can be detected by any phone within range**, creating unquantifiable safeguarding risks. These risks are not limited to iPhones. Anyone in the nearby area will be able to search via Bluetooth and track the AirTag
- Sharing AirTag location data on social media may create additional safety concerns for the group.
- Individuals who are being tracked without consent may have grounds for action under the **Protection from Harassment Act 1997** and may wish to seek legal advice.
- The **Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)**, which regulates the UK GDPR, takes a very serious view of organisations that track children. (See: [Geolocation Tracking | ICO](#)).

Parents who take air tag geolocation data and publish it in real time on social media may create further risks to a group.

People who are being tracked and don't want to be and who have tried to end the unwanted surveillance may have a case under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and could seek legal advice.

The UK GDPR Regulator, the ICO takes a very dim view of organisations that track children - Geolocation tracking | ICO

If you have any concerns or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the office. We welcome conversations about the responsible use of technology and are happy to address any questions you may have.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Mrs S Wakeling

Executive Headteacher

