

Lacey Green Primary Academy

Mobile Phone, Tracker and Smart Watch Policy | Pupils



Policy Reviewed and Agreed: March 2026

Lacey Green Primary Academy is a mobile phone, tracker and smart watch free school. We believe that mobile phones and smart watches can negatively impact children's wellbeing, concentration, behaviour and social interactions. In order to maintain a safe, calm and purposeful learning environment, pupils are not permitted to use personal devices during the school day.

This policy applies to all pupils while on the school premises, including during the school day, break times, lunchtimes, before school, after school, and during school visits unless otherwise agreed by the Principal.

Aims:

This policy aims to:

- support pupils' safety and wellbeing
- reduce distraction during learning time
- prevent misuse of mobile phones and devices, including social media access
- reduce safeguarding risks related to photography, filming or online communication
- promote positive behaviour and face-to-face friendships

Mobile Phones

Mobile Phones in School General Rule

Pupils should not bring mobile phones to school.

Exception – Year 4/5/6 Pupils Walking Independently

The only exception to this rule is:

Year 4/5/6 pupils who are permitted to walk to and from school independently (Permission for this is logged by parents on Arbor)

These pupils may bring a mobile phone to school for safety reasons only, to allow communication with parents/carers before or after school.

No other pupils are permitted to bring a mobile phone into school unless explicitly agreed in advance by the Principal.

Procedure for Bringing a Mobile Phone to School

Where a Year 4, 5 or 6 pupil brings a phone to school:

- The phone must be switched off before entering the school premises.
- On arrival, the phone must be handed immediately to the main office and placed in the mobile phone collection tray
- The phone will be stored during the school day in the office.
- At the end of the school day, the phone can be collected from the main office - Pupils are not permitted to access their phone at any time during the school day.

Misuse of Mobile Phones

Mobile phones must never be used to:

- take photographs or videos
- record audio
- access social media or messaging apps
- contact other pupils during the school day
- share inappropriate content

Any misuse will be treated as a serious behaviour matter and dealt with in line with the school Behaviour Policy.

If a Phone is Brought to School Without Permission

If a pupil brings a phone to school without permission:

- the phone will be confiscated and stored.
- parents/carers may be asked to collect the phone from the school office
- repeated breaches may result in consequences in line with the Behaviour policy.

Loss, Theft or Damage

Lacey Green Primary Academy does not accept responsibility for mobile phones that are:

- lost
- stolen
- damaged

This includes phones brought to school with permission. Pupils bring mobile phones to school at their own risk, and parents/carers should consider whether it is necessary for their child to bring a phone.

Smartwatches and Trackers

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 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

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.

This policy will be reviewed and updated when any new guidelines and legislation are issued by any relevant bodies or where the Academy feels it is necessary.