



Whitstable & Seasalter Endowed Church of England (Aided) Junior School

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Dear Parents and Carers

We have become aware of a situation that has never happened in previous years that we need to address with our families.

Unfortunately, some parents have been attaching a digital tracker to their child for school trips. This is not permitted or appropriate and poses a safeguarding risk for the whole group.

The use of digital tracking is a breach of privacy for the other children in the party. You may be unwittingly sharing information that may go against court orders or social services protection plans that you would most likely not be aware of. You may also be alerting prohibited persons to the specific live location of another child in the group which could potentially put the whole group at risk.

We appreciate that as caring parents, you want to ensure your child is safe; I would have however hoped that you trust the school and its staff to prioritise the safety of all children on all school trips. We always take the recommended number of supervising adults and obviously our own school staff are all DBS checked and trained in keeping children safe and are known and trusted by the children. We sometimes ask for parent volunteers to accompany us and they are briefed on our expectations prior to any trip taking place. Often trips will include senior members of staff with many years' experience of successfully leading these outings for children and all children are closely supervised throughout all trips and the children do not leave our supervision at any point therefore minimising any risk of children going missing. In addition to this, any delay in return times are communicated with the school as well as directly with parents, if necessary.

School trips are an important developmental opportunity for children to start to develop independence, but parental tracking of children's every movement hinders a child's freedom and spirit of adventure. It is inappropriate and unnecessary when on a school-organised activity.

Whilst I fully understand that the use of tracking devices by parents has most likely been a well-meaning result of wanting to ensure your child's safety and is tempting in today's technology-driven society; I hope you can understand the reasons we have given for why we must insist that this does not happen again. If you have safety concerns over any future school visit, please do not hesitate to contact the school so that we can reassure you of the safeguarding arrangements that we have put in place.

Kind regards

Ellen Taylor
Headteacher

