



“Tracking should not be a ‘just because’ sort of thing for parents because not every kid requires such monitoring,”

— community member Sarah Smith

To Track or Not to Track

Should parents track their kids?

by Copy Editor Ivonee Morales-Mejia

In an age where technology has advanced, parents now find it easier to track their children through the use of tracking devices and phone apps, such as Life 360, that had approximately 18 million active monthly users at the end of 2018.

“With sex trafficking and kidnapping happening at an alarming rate, teens and kids aren’t very likely to leave their phones behind, so if something like this were to happen, parents would be able to track their kids,” said parent Sharon Adams.

180 Oak Park High School students were asked whether or not parents should track their children, 59% of students agreed while 41% disagreed. It’s obvious students are fairly evenly divided on the issue

“I understand if you’re tracking a kid because they have a history of sneaking out,” said sophomore Olivia Dines. “However, if they’re decent kids then there’s no reason to invade their privacy, kids should be able to grow up, not constantly under someone’s rules and protection.”

However, in a survey of 148 parents and adults, 98.6% said parents should track their children while 1.4% disagreed. In a separate survey, adults were asked if they tracked their children. Only 75% actually do while 25% didn’t track their children.

Parent Sarah Reynolds said, “Tracking should not be a ‘just because’ sort of thing for parents because not every kid requires such monitoring.”

The issue some students had with

tracking children was based on a belief in “helicopter parenting,” defined by Merriam Webster dictionary as “a parent who is overly involved in the life of his or her child,”

“I can definitely remember since sixth grade, my mom’s always tracked me,” said senior Gabrielle Letsinger. “One time my best friend and I were driving and the lane where we were supposed to go closed, so we had to go another way, and my mom messaged me ‘that isn’t the way you were supposed to go,’ so I had to send her pictures and videos because her phone was saying we were somewhere else and she had gotten mad because at one point I didn’t have service so I couldn’t text her, so after that I was grounded and my phone was taken away.”

Some people are in the middle, saying there should be a line of trust between the child and parents.

“At some point, children need to be given the freedom to make decisions and be counted upon to make the right choices in life. If you’re always monitoring a kid then you’re not letting them know that you believe in

their ability to do that independently,” said school psychologist Natalie Koster.

Some argue that tracking children violates a child’s privacy, it also provides safety and reassurance to the parents.

“I never tracked my son until he was a new driver, then we downloaded the Life 360 app,” said Clay County deputy Justin Linard. “One day, we had those slick days and I checked to see if he was really driving slow, and he was going super slow, as a parent it reassures me to know where he’s at.”



Out of 148 Parents



98.6% of parents...

Agreed that children should be tracked



75% of parents...

Track their children