

Fidget Toys at Whingate

- Fidget Toys can provide several benefits for the children who attend Whingate, especially for pupils who have difficulty focusing or managing their energy levels.
- When pupils have an appropriate outlet for their restlessness, they are less likely to engage in disruptive behaviours. This can lead to a calmer classroom environment overall and therefore Whingate support the use of fidget toys.

Purpose and Approval

- Fidget toys are allowed as tools to help with focus and self-regulation, not as toys for play. Pupils who require fidget toys for focus or special needs (e.g., ADHD, sensory processing) should have approval from the class teacher and SENDCo. Only quiet, non-disruptive fidget toys are allowed.

Proper Use

- Fidget toys should be used discreetly at the student's desk or in hand, without distracting others. Pupils should continue to focus on classwork, and the fidget toy should complement their attention rather than take it away. If a child is anxious or upset, they could take their fidget toy to chill-out. Fidget toys are not to be shared or traded with other students during class time.

Time and Place

- Fidget toys can be used during class time when pupils are seated and expected to focus (e.g., during lessons, individual work). They are not allowed during tests, assessments, or group discussions unless specified by the teacher. Fidget toys should be put away during transitions, physical activities, break times and lunchtimes or when moving around the classroom.

Teacher's Discretion

- If the fidget toy becomes a distraction to the student or others, the teacher will ask the student to put it away. In these circumstances, the teacher should explain why they are asking for the fidget to be put away. Teachers and support staff should work with pupils to develop correct techniques for the use of fidget toys.

Respectful Use

- Pupils must respect classroom rules and fellow classmates' needs for a calm learning environment. Any misuse of fidget toys, such as throwing or causing distraction, will result in temporary loss of it.