



Ready, Respectful, Resilient

Headteacher: Mrs T Price BA (Hons) MA Ed

12th June 2026

Use of Fidget and Focus Tools in School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As an inclusive school, we are committed to ensuring that all students have access to the support they need to be successful in the classroom. For some students, this may include the use of a fidget or focus tool as part of their agreed provision.

Recently, we have seen a significant increase in the number of students bringing and using fidget toys in school, many of whom do not currently have an agreed need for them within school. Whilst fidget and focus tools can be highly effective for some children, they are intended to support focus, attention and regulation and should not be viewed as recreational items. When used inappropriately, they can become a distraction to learning and can reduce their effectiveness as a support strategy for the students for whom they have been identified as an appropriate adjustment.

It is important to note that fidget and focus tools are not a first-line strategy. Before considering the use of a fidget tool, we would always explore a range of classroom-based approaches and reasonable adjustments to support a student's attention, concentration and regulation. For many students who currently use a fidget or focus tool in school, this support has been recommended through discussions between parents, school staff and, in some cases, external professionals.

To ensure consistency across the school, students have been reminded today that fidget and focus tools should only be used where this has been agreed between parents/carers, the student's Form Tutor or Progress Leader and, where appropriate, external professionals involved in supporting the child. This change does not affect students who currently have an agreed need for a fidget or focus tool as part of their support in school.

Any fidget toys seen being used without prior agreement will be confiscated and returned to students at the end of the school day.

In addition, we will no longer permit fidget toys containing liquids, gels, slime-like substances or similar materials. These items are frequently bursting in classrooms, causing damage to uniforms, schoolwork and equipment. There have also been recent reports raising concerns about the safety of some of these products and therefore this decision has been made in the interests of health and safety.

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Where a fidget or focus tool has been agreed, it should be small, discreet and silent so that it supports learning without disrupting others.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain an inclusive learning environment where reasonable adjustments are available to students who require them, whilst ensuring that classrooms remain focused and purposeful for all students.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's support needs, please contact your child's Form Tutor in the first instance.

Kind regards,

Catherine Fletcher

SENDCo
James Bateman Middle School