Fidget Toy Use Protocol – The Mountbatten School

Fidget toys can help pupils with additional needs such as Autism, ADHD, Sensory Processing Disorder, or anxiety to regulate, focus, and reduce stress. This protocol ensures that their use supports learning while maintaining a calm classroom environment.

Definition

Fidget toys are small, silent, handheld objects designed to aid attention and self-regulation. While they may appear playful, for some pupils they are essential tools for managing sensory or emotional needs.

Use Guidelines

- Fidget toys must be approved by the SENCO.
- Only one fidget toy is permitted at a time.
- Use must be discreet (e.g. under the table), silent, and non-distracting.
- Toys should be stored in a pocket when not in use.
- Use is limited to appropriate times (e.g. independent work or when directed by staff).

Responsibilities

- **Teachers:** Consult with the SENCO and monitor appropriate use.
- **Parents:** Request use if needed and support appropriate use at home.
- **Pupils:** Follow staff guidance and use responsibly.

Monitoring

Teachers will report impact to the SENCO, who may consult external professionals (e.g. Occupational Therapists) as needed.