



# New Haw Community School

## The Avenue, New Haw, Surrey, KT15 3RL



Tel: 01932 336571

email [office@new-haw.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@new-haw.surrey.sch.uk) [www.new-haw.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.new-haw.surrey.sch.uk)



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Dear parent and carers

### Fiddle Aids explained

Fiddle aids, also known as fidget toys, are small, handheld objects that can be moved around in various ways. They have become popular tools for children with autism, ADHD, anxiety, and other additional needs. These aids can offer sensory stimulation, reduce stress, improve focus, and can be calming during periods of high anxiety. For children with SEN (special educational needs), these aids are not games—they are essential tools for navigating the world. They can help children stay focused in school, calm down when overwhelmed, and express themselves in non-verbal ways.

At New Haw, some children with SEN might use a fiddle aid. School provides fiddle aids and the decision to give a child with SEN a fiddle aid is decided by staff. We have been advised on correct use of fiddle aids by our link Occupational Therapist: the fiddle aid is used by the child for a period of time and then given back to the teacher to be looked after; the fiddle aid is not something that is supposed to be used constantly.

Please do not allow your child to bring their own toys into school to use as a fiddle aid. If your child is on the SEN register, they will already know whether a fiddle aid is part of their provision. Unfortunately, we have seen an influx of toys coming into school by children who do not have SEN, and in some classes it has become a complete distraction which takes up valuable lesson time to manage.

We thank you for your understanding in the matter.

Regards

*Mrs Cahill*

*Mrs Dempsey*

Mrs Cahill & Mrs Dempsey