

## **Stanground Academy Sensory Tool Policy**

### **Overview**

Some students with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) may find the use of a sensory tool beneficial, sometimes referred to as a fidget toy, to assist in their concentration and self-regulation to enable their participation in learning. Use of a sensory tool will be approved by the SEND department in line with the following policy.

Students who are approved to use a sensory tool will have this indicated on their learning plan and also on their Class Charts card for teachers and staff to easily identify authorised usage.

The SEND department reserves the right to remove a student's use of a sensory tool if it is found to be unduly distracting to them or their peers, and/or is not enhancing their concentration or participation in learning.

### **The role of the SEND department**

The SEND department will make the decision on whether it is in the best interests of the student to be allocated a sensory tool. This may be based on medical diagnoses, prior assessments, teacher feedback, parental communication and any other data needed to make a reasonable decision.

The SEND department keeps a small number of sensory tools for students to use when allocated, external sensory tools are allowed provided they meet the specifications set out below.

Please note, the Stanground Academy Reward Store may sell other toys/items which students can purchase with their Aspire Points. These are not necessarily approved as sensory tools by the SEND Department and may be inappropriate for use as a sensory tool. Students may be asked to put these tools away and keep them at home if they do not meet the criteria set out below. We will ensure that anything listed as a sensory tool on the Reward Store is compliant with this policy.

### **The role of the parent/carer**

Parents/carers may provide sensory tools *only* for students who have had authorisation from the SEND department (see above).

External sensory tools which meet the specifications below are permitted. Sensory tools which do not meet the below specifications may be confiscated and returned home. If you are unsure, please contact [SENenquiries@stangroundacademy.org](mailto:SENenquiries@stangroundacademy.org) before purchase.

### **The role of the student**

Students should use sensory tools when needed to aid in concentration. Sensory tools do not need to be used in every lesson or for the duration of the whole lesson. Students should independently determine when they should be used and regulate their reliance on them.

Students may be asked to put away their sensory tool in some circumstances, this may be due to the nature of the work being completed in that lesson or because the teacher has determined that they are being distracted by the tool. Students should always comply with requests from the classroom teacher regarding the use of sensory tools.

**Students should not share their sensory tools.** They are for their use only, if one of their peers wishes to use a sensory tool, that student must follow the process outlined above via the SEND department.

**The role of the classroom teacher**

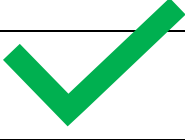
The classroom teacher should be aware of any students who are allocated sensory tools in their class. They should allow students to use their sensory tools and ensure that the tools are used in a sensible and appropriate manner.

Classroom teachers have the right to ask the student to put their sensory tool away at any given time, for practical reasons, behavioural reasons, or any other reason which may present itself in the classroom environment. Students are expected to comply with these requests as they would any other request from a teacher (see above).




If staff have any concerns about the use of sensory tools, or feel a student may benefit from being delegated one, they should complete a SEND Matters referral form.

**What sensory tools are allowed/not allowed?**

**Sensory tools must be:**

Silent, or as close to silent as possible.	Small enough to fit in a blazer pocket or pencil case.	Discreet.	
			

**Sensory tools must not:**

<p><b>Be noise-making, e.g. fidget spinner.</b></p>	<p><b>Be too large, should fit in a blazer pocket or pencil case.</b></p>	<p><b>Contain liquid e.g. squishy toys.</b></p>
		
<p><b>Be sticky e.g. wall crawlers.</b></p>	<p><b>Cause potential risk, e.g. not sharp, not electronic etc.</b></p>	<p><b>Be magnetic.</b></p>
