

Fiddle/fidget BBC school report

Fiddle/fidget toys have been very popular since 2017 when the fidget cube and fidget spinner were becoming a trend. We have been finding out what students and teachers think about these toys. We interviewed the Head Boy and Head Girl of Longbenton High School to see what their views were.

Do you think fidget/fiddle toys are beneficial?

“I think fidget toys are not beneficial in school because they side-track people and are similar to the use of phones in lessons. I think they are an unnecessary distraction too. The fidget toys should be used for people who have learning difficulties or anxiety”

How do fidget/fiddle toys distract you in lessons?

“When people use fiddle/fidget toys in lessons, the main problem is the noise. The sound is distracting and makes it harder for you to learn.”

Should all schools in the UK ban fidget/fiddle toys?

“I think some schools should ban fiddle/fidget toys as they are unnecessary.”

Do you own any fidget/fiddle toys?

“Yes, I use the toy when I am bored. The toy causes no harm as long as it’s not in school when it can distract others or yourself.”

In conclusion to the interview, we found out that some students were distracted in lessons and were not learning as well as others because of the fiddle/fidget toys. It wasn’t just the fact that the fiddle/fidget toys were distracting because of the spinning movements. The fiddle/fidget toys were also distracting others because of the clicking and buzzing noises.

Since the interview above only has the opinions of Longbenton High School’s Head Boy and Head Girl, we also had classes in Year 8 take a student questionnaire to see what they thought about fiddle toys.

Do you think fiddle/fidget toys are good and beneficial?

Most of the students said that they thought that fiddle/fidget toys are beneficial. This was because the students thought that they helped with stress and they helped with concentration in lessons.

Have you ever been distracted by a fiddle/fidget toy in class?

Most of the students said that they had been distracted by a fiddle/fidget toy in class. They were distracted by the sounds, the spinning and the lights. The students were also distracted when their friends started to show off the toys to each other.

Do you own any fiddle/fidget toys and why?

Everyone owned fiddle/fidget toys. They used them because they were fun to play with however they were also used for anxiety, depression and ADHD. Even though everyone owned a fiddle/fidget toy, some of the students said that they were a waste of money. We think that they bought them because of the trends and how all their friends had one.

Do you think that it was right for Mr Quinn (the Head Teacher of Longbenton High School) to ban fiddle/fidget toys and why?

The majority of the students said that it wasn't right to ban the fiddle/fidget toys because they thought they helped you concentrate in lessons and they thought the sound was satisfying. Some of the students thought that this matter was unfair because people needed the fiddle/fidget toys for medical reasons. However, the teachers thought that it was right for Mr Quinn to ban the toys because they thought that they were distracting students in their lessons. The teachers also said that school is a place to learn and not a place to play with toys! Since the students can't play with fiddle/fidget toys anymore, they have been using blu tack which doesn't distract students as much anymore and doesn't make any noise.

We also questioned Nicky who works with people who have learning difficulties and she says "monitored use is needed to ensure effective use of fiddle toys."

In conclusion, we found out that students disagree with Mr Quinn banning fiddle/fidget toys but most teachers agree. We think that everybody uses fiddle/fidget toys but not always for the best purpose and although people will be distracted by others they still want to keep them. We think that fiddle/fidget toys should be used as toys at home rather than something to side-track your learning at school.

