



THE GAINSBOROUGH ACADEMY

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HEADTEACHER: Mrs R Skelton

2nd July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of new rules around "squishy" toys at our school, which will take effect immediately.

Following a significant increase in disruptions and damage to school property as a result of these toys being popped, we are banning students from bringing "squishies" into the school.

While these items are often marketed as harmless toys, they have recently caused widespread issues across the school building. Specifically, we have experienced ongoing disruption during lessons when these items are popped. The gluey, sticky substance inside them is then being wiped onto school laptops, furniture, carpets, and walls. This not only disrupts learning but causes costly and preventable damage to our school environment.

This ban will be effective as of **Monday 6th July**. If students bring these toys into school, the following will happen:

- **Confiscation:** If a student is found with a "squishy" toy in school, it will be confiscated immediately.
- **Return of Property:** The item will be kept safely in the Pastoral Office and returned to the student at the end of the school day.

We fully recognise that some students utilise fidgets as a legitimate way to help them focus and regulate during lessons. This ban applies specifically to "squishies" and does not mean a blanket ban on all fidgets. Students who require specific fidget tools as part of their learning support will still have access to approved alternatives. Our SENDCo will be communicating further, detailed guidance regarding the appropriate use of approved regulatory tools and their use at the start of the new term in September.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a clean, focused, and respectful learning environment for all our students.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Wood
Deputy Headteacher
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