



26th March 2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am writing to let you know of some changes to some aspects of our SEND support that we will be implementing after the Easter break. We are providing a set of school-approved concentration aids for use in each of our classrooms. To ensure they are used safely and constantly, we will be asking children to adhere to a set of guidelines regarding their use.

The expectations are as follows:

- Pupils must not bring their own concentration aids from home.
- All concentration aids will be handed out by staff each morning.
- They will be collected back in at the end of each school day.

These steps help us maintain fairness, avoid distractions, and ensure that all items are used appropriately. We will also be working with children to encourage safe use of ear defenders following the recent guidance from the NHS.

The NHS guidance says "***The continued use of ear defenders results in an increase in a child's auditory gain; which means that they become MORE sensitive towards sounds.***" Meaning that overuse of ear defenders can be detrimental to children suffering with auditory distress. The academy is generally a calm and quiet environment, and ear defenders should only be needed at lunch time, during PE and for some assemblies.

The analogy we will be using with the children, is as follows:

Ear defenders should only really be used like an inhaler.

1. You would use your inhaler if your body is in crisis (asthma attack)- you would use the ear defenders if your body and mind are in crisis (full sensory overload.)
2. You would use it if you are a little unwell - ear defenders maybe needed more if are a little unwell (the sensory processing system is often hyper stimulated during illness.)
3. You would use your inhaler when you are doing something unusual to the everyday (like before you play a game of rugby you may need an extra couple of puffs)- you would use the ear defenders if you are doing something unusual to the everyday (such as going to a fireworks display for example)

There is a helpful link to guidance around the safe use of ear defenders here: [Recommendations for use of Ear Defenders Final draft.pdf](#)

Thank you for your support and cooperation. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H Blake
SENCO