

NEWTON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY SMASH



ANIMALS and PETS IN SCHOOL POLICY

POLICY REVIEWED

July 2026

POLICY TO BE REVIEWED

July 2027





Animals and Pets in School Policy

Policy Reviewed June 2026

Reviewed by S Hardy

Review Due June 2027

Aligned with BSO, CIS, QNSA and Qatar MOEHE expectations

Purpose

Newton International Academy Smash recognises that carefully planned interactions with animals can enrich learning, promote wellbeing, develop empathy and support aspects of the curriculum. However, the safety, safeguarding, health, cultural sensitivity, and wellbeing of pupils, staff and visitors must always take priority.

Policy Statement

As a general rule, pupils, parents, visitors and staff must not bring personal pets onto the school site. Animals may only be present when they form part of an approved educational and where suitable safeguards, permissions and risk assessments are in place.

Alignment with Standards and Expectations

Framework	Relevant expectation	Policy response
BSO	Welfare, health and safety standards require effective safeguarding arrangements, compliance with host-country health and safety laws, proper supervision and written risk assessment procedures.	No animal activity may take place without SLT approval, supervision, health and safety controls and a written risk assessment.
CIS	CIS places strong emphasis on safeguarding, child protection, wellbeing, intercultural understanding, and risk management in international school contexts.	The policy includes voluntary participation, cultural sensitivity, safeguarding review, inclusion and learning from incidents.
QNSA / MOEHE	Qatar National School Accreditation supports school quality, continuous improvement, governance and compliance with Ministry expectations, including safety and protection.	The policy sets clear governance, approval, monitoring, communication and review expectations.
Qatar context	Qatar regulates dangerous animals and requires public safety compliance. Cultural and religious sensitivities around certain animals must be respected.	Dangerous, exotic and restricted animals are prohibited; dogs are not routinely permitted except in clearly approved exceptional circumstances.

Guiding Principles

- Safety: all foreseeable risks to pupils, staff, visitors and animals must be identified and reduced.
- Educational value: animals may only be used where there is a clear curriculum enrichment.

- Cultural respect: activities must recognise religious, cultural, allergy, phobia and personal considerations in Qatar.
- Animal welfare: animals must be treated humanely and never exposed to unnecessary stress, harm, or excessive handling.
- Inclusion: no pupil will be forced to touch or interact with an animal. Alternative arrangements must be offered where needed.

Risk Assessment Requirements

- Allergy and asthma risks, including whether parents need prior notification.
- Bite, scratch, escape, trip or injury risks.
- Animal temperament, welfare, transport and rest arrangements.
- Supervision ratios and staff deployment.
- Location, cleaning arrangements, waste disposal and food-area restrictions.
- Emergency procedures, including what to do if an animal becomes distressed or a pupil is injured.
- Hands must be washed before and after contact with animals.
- Hand sanitiser may support but must not replace handwashing where visible dirt or animal contact has occurred.
- Animals must not enter kitchens, dining areas, food preparation spaces or medical rooms unless a specific approved exception applies.
- Animal waste must be removed immediately by an adult using appropriate protective equipment.
- Tables, floors and equipment must be cleaned after animal contact.
- Any bite, scratch, allergic reaction or illness concern must be reported immediately to the school nurse and SLT.

Safeguarding and Inclusion

- Animal activities must not compromise pupil supervision or safeguarding routines.
- Pupils must be supervised by school staff at all times; external providers must not be left alone with pupils.
- Staff must follow the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, including professional boundaries and reporting concerns.
- Activities must be inclusive and adapted for pupils with SEND, allergies, sensory needs, anxiety or cultural concerns.
- Consent or opt-out processes must be used where direct contact is planned.

Animal Welfare Expectations

- Animals must have access to appropriate food, water, ventilation, shade and rest.
- Handling must be limited, gentle and supervised.
- Animals must be transported safely and kept in suitable enclosures where relevant.
- Animals showing signs of stress, illness or aggression must be removed from the activity immediately.
- No animal may be used for entertainment in a way that causes distress or contradicts the school values.

Communication with Parents

- Parents will be informed in advance when animals visit school or when a regular animal-related programme is planned.

- Parents must inform the school of relevant allergies, asthma, phobias or cultural concerns.

The policy will be reviewed annually, following any significant incident, or following changes to Qatar legislation and MOEHE requirements.

