

NEWTON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY SMASH



CHARACTER EDUCATION POLICY

POLICY REVIEWED

July 2026

POLICY TO BE REVIEWED

July 2027





Character Education Policy

Updated July 2026

Updated by CE coordinator

Review July 2027

Character Education Vision

At Newton International Academy Smash, we believe that character is developed through the deliberate cultivation of virtues, values and positive habits. We aim to nurture pupils who are respectful, responsible, compassionate and resilient, enabling them to flourish academically, socially and personally. Through a whole-school approach, Character Education is embedded in all aspects of school life and supports pupils in becoming confident, caring and active members of society.

Character Education at NIA Smash

Character Education is embedded throughout the school through a "Taught, Caught and Sought" approach. Character is explicitly taught through dedicated lessons, assemblies, discussions and reflection activities that focus on key virtues and values. Character is caught through the positive relationships that exist within the school community, where staff model the virtues and behaviours expected of pupils. Character is sought through opportunities for pupils to apply their learning in meaningful contexts, including leadership roles, community projects, charitable initiatives and collaborative learning experiences.

Assemblies

Assembly sessions held on Thursdays play a significant role in promoting Character Education across the school. Weekly assemblies provide opportunities for pupils to explore virtues, celebrate achievements and reflect on their role within the school and wider community. Assemblies are used to reinforce the school's values, discuss current events, recognise positive character traits and celebrate national and international events. Pupils are encouraged to participate actively in assemblies through presentations, performances and sharing their learning with others.





CE lessons

At Newton International Academy Smash, Character Education is delivered through a progressive and age-appropriate programme across EYFS, Primary and Secondary. The Character Education curriculum is aligned with the principles and virtues outlined by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues and aims to develop pupils' moral, intellectual, civic and performance virtues.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Character Education is embedded within daily learning experiences and is closely linked to the Development Matters Framework. Children develop positive character traits through play-based learning, circle time discussions, storytelling, role play and adult modelling. Pupils are encouraged to develop respect, kindness, patience, responsibility and empathy through their interactions with others and through structured opportunities for reflection and discussion.

In the Primary phase, Character Education is taught through dedicated lessons following the school's Long-Term and Medium-Term Plans. Lessons focus on specific virtues and provide opportunities for pupils to explore moral dilemmas, discuss real-life situations and reflect on their own behaviour and choices. A range of teaching strategies, including discussion, collaborative learning, storytelling, Philosophy for Children (P4C), role play and reflection activities, are used to support pupils in developing a deeper understanding of character and virtue. Character Education is further reinforced through assemblies, displays, Home Talk activities and the school's Virtue of the Week programme.

In the Secondary phase, Character Education is delivered through timetabled lessons that encourage students to engage critically with issues relating to personal responsibility, relationships, citizenship, wellbeing and ethical decision-making. Students are provided with opportunities to debate contemporary issues, reflect on their values and consider the impact of their actions on others. Through discussion, enquiry and leadership opportunities, students develop resilience, integrity, self-discipline and a sense of civic responsibility.

Across all phases, Character Education is embedded through a "Taught, Caught and Sought" approach. Virtues are explicitly taught through lessons and assemblies, caught through the positive role modelling of staff and the culture of the school, and sought through opportunities for pupils to demonstrate character through leadership, service, community projects and everyday interactions. This whole-school approach ensures that Character Education is an integral part of school life and supports pupils in becoming confident, responsible and compassionate members of society.

Virtue Focus

Throughout the academic year, the school promotes a range of virtues that are taught explicitly and reinforced across all areas of school life. Each virtue is introduced through Character Education lessons, assemblies, displays and classroom discussions. Home-school activities further support pupils in applying these virtues beyond the classroom, helping to strengthen the partnership between school and home in developing positive character.





Celebrating Character

Positive character development is recognised and celebrated throughout the school. Pupils who demonstrate the school's values and virtues are acknowledged through assemblies, certificates, classroom recognition systems and displays of work. Celebrating character encourages pupils to reflect on their behaviour, recognise the strengths of others and strive to embody the virtues promoted within the school community.

Student Leadership and Service

Pupils are provided with opportunities to develop leadership skills and contribute positively to the school community. Through classroom responsibilities, student leadership roles, assemblies, community projects and charitable initiatives, pupils learn the importance of responsibility, cooperation and service to others. These experiences allow pupils to practise the virtues they learn about and understand the positive impact they can have on those around them.

Community Engagement

Character Education extends beyond the classroom through participation in community-focused projects and charitable activities. Pupils are encouraged to demonstrate care, kindness and social responsibility by supporting initiatives that benefit the wider community. These opportunities help pupils develop empathy, gratitude and a sense of civic responsibility while strengthening their understanding of their role as global citizens.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation and impact of Character Education are monitored by the Character Education Coordinator, Senior Leadership Team and teaching staff. Monitoring takes place through lesson observations, learning walks, display reviews, planning scrutiny, pupil voice and parental feedback. This ongoing evaluation ensures that Character Education remains effective, meaningful and aligned with the school's vision and values.

Roles and Responsibilities

Character Education is the responsibility of the entire school community. The Character Education Coordinator oversees the strategic development and implementation of the programme, providing guidance and support to staff. Teachers are responsible for delivering high-quality Character Education lessons, modelling positive character traits and promoting the school's virtues within their classrooms. Pupils are expected to actively engage in Character Education opportunities and demonstrate the values of the school in their daily interactions. Parents play a vital role in supporting character development by reinforcing virtues and values at home and working in partnership with the school to promote positive behaviour and personal growth.

