

NEWTON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY LUSAIL

<https://newtonschoools.sch.qa/campuses/newton-international-academy-lusail/>

An International community of learners striving for excellence and celebrating success



Newton International Academy Lusail

Online Safety Policy

2026 - 2027



Last Review: August 2026

Next Review: June 2027

Reviewer: Policy Committee

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VISION

An international community of learners, striving for excellence, and celebrating success.

MISSION

We aim to provide the highest quality of education possible for all our students. In doing so, we aim to positively encourage each student to achieve academic excellence, celebrate diversity, develop critical thinking skills and become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

To achieve this, we will provide a diverse education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes positive discipline and self-motivation. We will provide and maintain a trusting and caring atmosphere where teaching and learning is meaningful and developed. We will work in partnership with our staff, students, parents and wider community to achieve our vision.

RATIONALE

Online safety is an essential part of safeguarding and of providing a safe and supportive learning environment. The increasing use of technology, online platforms and digital resources provides valuable opportunities for teaching and learning, while also presenting potential risks that children and young people must be supported to understand and manage.

At NIA Lusail, online safety is a shared responsibility. The school seeks to ensure that pupils use technology safely, responsibly and respectfully and that appropriate measures are in place to reduce the risk of exposure to harmful or inappropriate content, unsafe communication and other online risks.

Online safety is promoted through age appropriate education, appropriate supervision, effective filtering and monitoring, clear expectations for the use of technology and prompt action where concerns arise.

Where an online safety concern indicates that a pupil may be at risk of harm, the matter will be addressed in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

AIMS

This policy aims to:

- Promote the safe, responsible and respectful use of technology across the school.
- Protect pupils from potential online harm and support their wellbeing when using digital technologies.
- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of online risks and how to respond appropriately.
- Establish clear expectations for the use of school technology, networks, devices and digital platforms.
- Ensure appropriate filtering and monitoring arrangements are in place to support the safety of pupils.
- Ensure that online safety concerns are identified, reported and responded to appropriately.
- Support teachers and staff in understanding their responsibilities for online safety and safeguarding.
- Work in partnership with parents to promote safe and responsible use of technology.
- Ensure that online safety practice remains responsive to changes in technology and emerging online risks.

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ONLINE SAFETY PRINCIPLES AND EXPECTATIONS

All members of the school community are expected to use technology in a safe, responsible and respectful manner.

The school will:

- Provide pupils with age-appropriate guidance and education about safe and responsible online behaviour.
- Maintain appropriate supervision, filtering and monitoring arrangements when pupils access technology through school systems.
- Promote respectful communication and responsible digital behaviour.
- Take reasonable steps to protect pupils from harmful, inappropriate or unsafe online content and activity.
- Ensure that pupils understand how and where to report an online safety concern.
- Respond promptly and appropriately when online safety concerns are identified.
- Consider the age, developmental stage, SEND and individual needs of pupils when providing online safety education and support.
- Apply relevant school policies where the use of technology involves behaviour, bullying, safeguarding or other concerns.

Pupils are expected to follow staff instructions and school expectations when using technology and must not deliberately access, create, share or attempt to bypass controls in order to access inappropriate or prohibited content.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Principal

- Ensure that appropriate online safety arrangements are established and implemented across the school.
- Ensure that sufficient resources and support are available to maintain effective online safety practice.
- Support appropriate action where significant online safety concerns arise.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

- Provide safeguarding oversight of online safety across the school.
- Ensure that online safety concerns involving potential harm to a pupil are responded to in accordance with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- Work with IT and relevant leaders to review concerns identified through filtering and monitoring systems.
- Ensure that emerging online safeguarding risks are communicated to staff where appropriate.

IT Department

- Maintain appropriate technical filtering and monitoring systems across the school network and school managed devices.
- Monitor the effectiveness of technical controls and respond appropriately to identified concerns.
- Support the DSL and school leaders with relevant information where online activity raises a safeguarding or behavioural concern.
- Maintain appropriate controls to protect school systems, accounts and network access.

Teachers and Staff

- Supervise pupils appropriately when technology is being used.
- Model safe, responsible and professional use of technology.

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- Reinforce online safety expectations and provide age-appropriate guidance to pupils.
- Report online safety concerns promptly through the appropriate school procedures.

Pupils

- Use school technology, accounts and digital platforms responsibly.
- Follow staff instructions and school expectations when using technology.
- Report concerning harmful or inappropriate online content or behaviour to a trusted adult.
- Parents
- Support the school's online safety expectations.
- Encourage safe and responsible use of technology outside school.
- Inform the school where an online concern may affect their child's safety, wellbeing or school experience.

ONLINE SAFETY EDUCATION

Online safety education will be appropriate to pupils' age, developmental stage and level of understanding and will be reinforced across the school.

The school will:

- Teach pupils how to use technology safely, responsibly and respectfully.
- Develop pupils' understanding of privacy, personal information, passwords and digital identity.
- Help pupils recognise harmful or inappropriate content, contact and online behaviour.
- Teach pupils how to respond when something online makes them feel uncomfortable, worried or unsafe.
- Develop pupils' understanding of respectful online communication and the consequences of their digital behaviour.
- Promote critical thinking when evaluating online information, including misleading or false content.
- Provide age-appropriate guidance on social media, online communication, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies where relevant.
- Reinforce the importance of reporting online concerns to a trusted adult.

Online safety will be reinforced through relevant curriculum learning, Character Education, P4C, assemblies, safeguarding and wellbeing activities, digital citizenship and other appropriate opportunities across school life.

SAFE AND APPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

School technology, networks, accounts and digital platforms must be used responsibly and for appropriate educational purposes.

Pupils must:

- Use only school approved devices, accounts, applications and digital platforms as directed by staff.
- Keep usernames and passwords secure and not share account details with others.
- Access only content and resources that are appropriate and relevant to their learning.
- Respect the privacy and digital work of other pupils and staff.
- Not attempt to access another person's account, files or personal information.

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- Not download, install or use unauthorised software, applications or browser extensions on school managed devices.
- Not attempt to bypass, disable or interfere with the school's filtering, monitoring or security systems, including using VPNs, proxy services or similar methods.
- Report inappropriate content, suspicious activity or security concerns to a member of staff.

Personal mobile phones are governed by the school's Mobile Phone Policy and must not be used as an alternative to school approved technology.

FILTERING AND MONITORING

NIA Lusail maintains appropriate filtering and monitoring arrangements to help protect pupils when using the school network, internet services and school managed devices.

The school will:

- Use appropriate filtering systems to restrict access to harmful, inappropriate or prohibited online content.
- Maintain monitoring arrangements that support the identification of concerning or potentially unsafe online activity.
- Ensure that filtering and monitoring arrangements reflect the age and needs of pupils across the school.
- Ensure that identified safeguarding concerns are reported promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Ensure that technical concerns are addressed by the IT Department and escalated appropriately where necessary.
- Review filtering and monitoring arrangements at least annually and following any significant incident, identified weakness or substantial change to the school's technology provision.
- Ensure that staff understand their responsibilities for supervising pupils when technology is being used.

Filtering and monitoring systems support, but do not replace, appropriate staff supervision, online safety education and professional vigilance.

ONLINE COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL CONTENT

Pupils are expected to communicate responsibly and respectfully when using digital technology and online platforms.

Pupils must:

- Use appropriate and respectful language when communicating online.
- Not use digital platforms to bully, threaten, harass or deliberately cause distress to another person.
- Not take, create, share or distribute photographs, video or audio recordings of pupils or staff without appropriate permission.
- Not create, access, share or distribute harmful, offensive or inappropriate digital content.
- Respect the privacy and personal information of others.
- Not impersonate another person or create accounts, profiles or content intended to misrepresent another member of the school community.

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- Report harmful, inappropriate or concerning online communication or content to a trusted adult.

Where online activity affects the safety, wellbeing or education of members of the school community, the school may respond in accordance with the relevant Behaviour Management, Anti-Bullying, Online Safety or Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures, as appropriate.