Newton International Academy, Barwa

DOJO Policy

An International Community of Learners, Striving for Excellence and Celebrating Success

Approved by: Senoir Management Team
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Review Cycle: Annual

NEWTON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY | BARWA

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

Mission
We aim to provide the highest quality of education possible for students of all abilities. In doing so, we aim to positively encourage each student to achieve academic excellence at their level, enjoy creative 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 self-discipline and motivation. We will provide and maintain a calm, trusting and caring atmosphere where teaching and learning are meaningful and developed. We will work in partnership with our staff, students, parents and wider community to achieve our vision.

Newton Group Values

Aim
This policy outlines the consistent and positive use of ClassDojo as a tool for encouraging behaviour, recognising effort, and promoting clear communication between school and home.

Rationale
At Newton International Academy Barwa, we use ClassDojo to reinforce positive behaviour, celebrate achievements, and build strong partnerships with families.

This platform supports student engagement, motivates learners, and strengthens school values. The policy ensures Dojo is used inclusively, responsibly, and with clear boundaries in both EYFS and Primary.

This policy should be read alongside the NIA Barwa Communication Policy. The Communication Policy sets out the school's wider communication channels and escalation procedures, while this policy provides specific expectations for the use of ClassDojo.

At Newton International Academy, we strongly believe in creating a learning environment that promotes a positive attitude to life-long learning and upholds an excellent standard of behaviour. We celebrate the efforts and achievements of all our children as they earn Positive Behaviour Points via ClassDojo: a school communication platform that brings children, teachers and parents together.

ClassDojo is a school reward and communication platform that supports our teachers to encourage children in class and engage parents. School staff use ClassDojo to give children encouragement (Positive Behaviour Points) for showing various behaviours and attitudes - like independence, positivity, teamwork and resilience. As school staff award Positive Behaviour Points, our children are fully aware of their progress (number of points earned) as their individual total grows. In turn, parents are immediately notified of their child's achievements via the ClassDojo app on a daily basis. We believe that our home-school partnership is fundamental to every child realising their full potential as it provides parents with a platform to monitor and connect with their child's classroom experiences.

Teachers and support staff can communicate with parents on a private messaging platform or on the Class Story page. Important class and school messages will be posted on ClassDojo.

Expectations of Staff

- All teachers are expected to create a ClassDojo account using the website www.classdojo.com.
- All teachers are expected to send out invitations to the parents in their class in the first week of Term 1 and to send regular reminders to parents to join. Teachers are also expected to add new students throughout the academic year.
- To use ClassDojo to collect Points. Teachers are encouraged to award Positive Behaviour Points consistently across the week to maintain student engagement and motivation.
- Children must be aware of how to gain Points throughout the school week. Positive Behaviour Points should recognise a wide range of skills, attitudes and character traits, such as teamwork, kindness, resilience, responsibility, and not solely academic achievement.
- To send regular reminders to parents regarding homework, special events, class trips, assessment timetables and important announcements.
- Teachers are not required to reply to messages after hours on workdays; however, we expect staff to respond within 24 hours on a working day.
- Teachers are not expected to download the ClassDojo application on their personal mobile phone.

- Teachers must use the private message platform to communicate with individual parents and be mindful of messages sent to all parents.
- Teachers are not to engage in discussions or arguments on ClassDojo. ClassDojo must only be used for short reminders, positive messages, notifications on behaviour and to book meetings.
- To connect Specialist Teachers and the Arabic Department to ClassDojo.
- Teachers are to sign up to ClassDojo using their school email.
- All members of staff are to make themselves fully aware of the children who do not have permission to have their photographs shared on websites and social media from the school.
- Staff must double-check individual permissions before uploading any photos or videos to Class Story or student portfolios to ensure compliance with school photo sharing agreements.

Expectations of Parents

- To use ClassDojo as a tool to book meetings, seek clarification and stay updated with all class and school events.
- To be polite and supportive when communicating on the private messaging platform.
- Parents are reminded that screenshots of ClassDojo communications must not be shared externally to protect the privacy of students, families and staff.
- Messages should be sent strictly regarding issues within the class. Whole school issues should not be communicated using the ClassDojo messaging platform. Parents should contact the Team Leader or SMT should they want to discuss whole school issues.
- Parents are encouraged to use ClassDojo to celebrate their child's success and communicate positively with staff. However, any sensitive concerns (e.g. complaints, incidents, or requests for meetings) must be directed through official school channels such as email or in-person appointments. Staff are not expected to respond outside school hours.
- Repeated negative or inappropriate communication may result in the suspension of messaging privileges on ClassDojo. In such cases, future communication will take place via formal school channels.

Additional Information

- No teacher is to take away dojo points from a child for any reason.
- Points accumulated through ClassDojo may contribute towards class rewards, certificates, or House Points, depending on school initiatives during the academic year.
- Students are allocated to House teams at the start of each academic year. Positive Behaviour Points earned through ClassDojo contribute towards their House Points total. Throughout the year, students work together to collect as many points as possible for their Houses. The House with the highest total at the end of the year will be awarded the House Cup during our final celebration assembly.
- In Early Years (EYFS), Positive Behaviour Points particularly focus on personal, social and emotional development, fostering early learning behaviours such as cooperation, independence and respect.

Consistency and Equity in Points Allocation

To ensure fairness, staff use standardised categories and balanced point distribution. All year groups follow a consistent Dojo point framework linked to House Points and Character Education virtues. Staff receive guidance to avoid unconscious bias and ensure that all students have equitable opportunities to earn recognition.

Safeguarding, Privacy and Digital Conduct

As an online platform, ClassDojo use must align with safeguarding and data protection expectations. ClassDojo is used in line with the school's Safeguarding, Online Safety, and Data Protection policies. Only school-approved staff have access to post on student profiles or class stories. Personal information, images, or content must not be shared without parental consent. Communication through ClassDojo should remain professional and be monitored by line managers where appropriate.