



Newton

International School D-Ring Road

Parent Handbook

An International Community of Learners Striving for Excellence and Celebrating Success

Academic Year
2025 - 2026



Dear Parents,

Whether you are returning to our school or joining us for the first time, I want to extend a warm welcome. This handbook is designed to ensure everyone is informed of important procedures, and I hope it provides helpful guidance, especially for those new to our community.

At Newton International School D Ring, we place great importance on the partnership between home and school. You'll often find senior leadership at the school gates or in the playground at the beginning and end of the day—please feel free to stop by, say hello, and have a chat. We're always available to listen and support you in any way we can.

I am incredibly proud of the achievements we have made as a school, but what stands out most is the strong sense of community we've built together. The relationship between home and school is crucial in supporting your child's holistic development. By working as a team, we can nurture not only your child's academic success but also their emotional well-being, social skills, and overall growth as a well-rounded individual.

Our goal is to provide an environment where your child can thrive, and that is only possible when parents and teachers work hand in hand. Open communication and mutual support help us guide your child through their educational journey. We highly encourage your involvement in the many events we host throughout the year and invite you to actively engage in the life of the school. Your participation strengthens our sense of community and enhances your child's experience.

If you ever have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us or your child's classroom teacher. Together, we can create the best possible environment for your child to grow and succeed at Newton International School D Ring.

Best regards,
Pauline Penney
Principal



Ms Penney
Principal



Ms Powell
Head of Primary



Ms Khitam Al Najjar
Arabic Coordinator



Ms Hickman
Deputy Head of Primary



Mr Booth
KS3 Coordinator



Ms Lynch
EYFS Coordinator



Our Vision

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

Our Mission

We aim to provide the highest quality of education possible for our students of all abilities. In doing so, we aim to positively encourage each student to achieve academic excellence, 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 International School D Ring Values



Newton Group Values



Support



Honesty



Respect



Transparent Communication



Social Responsibility



Personal Accountability



Environmental Awareness



Empathy



Diversity

Curriculum Overview -EYFS

Holistic Development Programmes

At Newton International School D Ring, we are committed to nurturing the holistic development of our students from EYFS through to Key Stage 3. Our approach goes beyond academics to ensure children develop critical thinking skills, strong character, and emotional well-being.

Programmes that are embedded throughout the school include:

- Philosophy for Children (P4C): Encouraging children to think critically, creatively, collaboratively, and caringly through structured discussions and inquiry-based learning.
- Character Development: Teaching core values, ethics, and personal responsibility to help students become well-rounded individuals.
- Zones of Regulation: A structured system that helps children recognise, understand, and regulate their emotions and behaviour, equipping them with lifelong self-management skills.

These programmes support students in becoming resilient, reflective, and emotionally aware individuals, preparing them not only for academic success but also for life beyond the classroom.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The EYFS focuses on play-based learning, where classrooms are divided into child-friendly areas (e.g., role play, construction, and creative art spaces). The curriculum is centered on four key principles:

1. A Unique Child: Each child's learning needs are different.
2. Positive Relationships: Relationships with teachers, parents, and peers are crucial.
3. Enabling Environments: Children thrive in stimulating learning spaces.
4. Learning and Development: Seven areas of learning shape the development process.

Key learning areas include:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social, and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



Curriculum Overview -Primary

Key Stage 1 (Years 1-2)

At Key Stage 1, our curriculum focuses on building foundational skills in core subjects. Students are introduced to a variety of materials such as stories, poems, non-fiction texts, and are encouraged to write their own narratives and non-fiction pieces.

- English: Students develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They explore stories, poems, and plays while writing simple stories and non-fiction. Reading for pleasure and developing vocabulary is a key focus.
- Mathematics: Key concepts include whole numbers, counting, place value, and basic arithmetic (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division). Students also learn to recognize shapes and use simple measures like time, money, length, and volume.
- Science: Children are introduced to basic scientific ideas by observing and experimenting with the world around them. Topics include Plants, Animals, and Materials.
- History and Geography: In History, students learn about the past and begin to develop chronological understanding. Geography introduces the UK and Qatar, enhancing their locational awareness.
- Computing, Art, Music, and PE: These subjects are taught weekly by specialists, with a focus on creativity, physical fitness, and digital literacy.
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Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6)

Building on the foundation set in Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 is designed to deepen students' knowledge across subjects. It emphasizes both practical learning and theoretical understanding.

- English: Students explore a wide range of texts, developing their skills in writing, grammar, and spelling. They learn to structure stories, write formal letters, and develop persuasive writing techniques. Reading fluency and comprehension are integral, with texts ranging from fiction to non-fiction.
- Mathematics: Students advance to more complex operations including multiplication, division, fractions, and decimals. They begin exploring geometry, measurements, and algebraic concepts. By Year 6, students are expected to have memorized their multiplication tables up to 12.
- Science: Key Stage 2 covers topics such as Forces, Earth and Space, and Living Things. Students conduct experiments, classify materials, and develop a scientific inquiry mindset.
- History and Geography: History lessons dive deeper into world events, British history, and ancient civilizations. In Geography, students explore human and physical geography across continents, focusing on the UK, Europe, and the Middle East.
- Computing: Students use multimedia to create presentations, code simple programs, and work with various software applications to support their learning across subjects.
- Specialist Subjects: Weekly Art and Design Technology (DT), Music, and PE lessons help develop creativity, fine motor skills, physical fitness, and teamwork.

Curriculum Overview -Key Stage Three

At Key Stage 3, students transition into more structured learning with increased independence and self-study responsibilities.

- **English:** Students engage with a variety of literary genres and develop advanced writing skills. They critically analyze texts, learning to create persuasive essays, narrative fiction, and reflective pieces. Speaking and listening skills are honed through presentations and debates.
- **Mathematics:** Mathematics in Key Stage 3 focuses on algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics. Students solve increasingly complex problems and are introduced to new concepts like ratios and percentages.
- **Science:** Science lessons become more specialized, covering Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Students work in labs to perform experiments and deepen their understanding of topics such as electricity, chemical reactions, and ecosystems.
- **History and Geography:** History classes build chronological understanding of key global events, from ancient to modern times. Geography covers physical processes such as volcanism and weather patterns, as well as the impact of human activities on the environment.
- **Computing:** Students gain a deeper understanding of coding, digital media, and the role of technology in society. They also work on projects involving data analysis and programming.
- **Specialist Subjects:** Students continue to engage with Art, Music, PE, and Design Technology, which further develop their creative, physical, and technical skills.
- **Languages (French and Arabic):** Language classes in Key Stage 3 focus on expanding vocabulary, grammar, and conversation skills in both French and Arabic. Students engage in practical exercises, writing tasks, and speaking activities.



Curriculum Overview

Three Compulsory Subjects

Arabic Curriculum

The Arabic curriculum consists of two levels:

Beginner Level (Non-Native Speakers):

This level is designed to help students acquire speaking, listening, and reading skills. It focuses on phonetic awareness and the development of simple Arabic language skills. Students work on recognizing and reading letters, and pronunciation exercises are a key part of this level. The goal is to build a strong foundation in the Arabic language through scaffolded lessons.

Advanced Level (Native Speakers):

This level caters to fluent Arabic speakers and aims to build on existing linguistic skills. It emphasizes writing structured sentences, reading comprehension, and developing fluency in both spoken and written Arabic. Topics covered include the use of grammar in sentence formation, developing word synonyms, and comprehension of texts. Students work on understanding how to build meaningful paragraphs, discuss various subjects, and correct phonetic errors in writing.

Islamic Studies

Islamic Studies is a compulsory subject for Muslim students and focuses on teaching students about Islamic values, beliefs, and history. Students learn to recite and memorize key Quranic verses, understand the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and explore important Islamic concepts such as the Five Pillars of Islam. They also engage in discussions on Islamic ethics and how to apply these values in their daily lives.

Qatar History

Qatar History is a compulsory subject for all students and focuses on the history, geography, and culture of Qatar. Students learn about Qatar's formation, key historical events, and its rich cultural heritage. Lessons cover the development of Qatar over the years, key figures in its history, and the role of Qatar within the region. The curriculum also introduces students to Qatar's physical geography, resources, and its national identity.



HOME LEARNING

Home Learning

Home learning at NIS D Ring is structured to reinforce in-class learning while promoting family discussions and independent thinking. Homework assignments are designed to cater to different learning styles and include:

- Maths: Weekly consolidation tasks using Maths Shed.
- Writing: Practice through Talk 4 Writing activities.
- Spellings: Weekly spelling lists and phonics reinforcement via Spelling Shed.
- Reading: Individualised book assignments on Bug Club (Active Learn).
- Topic Tasks: Research-based activities, experiments, and creative projects.
- Joint Family Activities: Interactive learning through discussions, problem-solving, and practical activities.
- Values Education: Weekly reflection and discussion on core values.

Homework Submission & Feedback

- Home Learning Sheets are posted on Google Classroom every Thursday.
- Assignments should be completed by the following Wednesday.
- Written tasks are submitted on Google Classroom or handed in to the class teacher.
- Online tasks provide instant feedback, while teachers offer verbal feedback through class discussions.
- Weekly spelling tests and homework-based discussions are conducted in class.

For Key Stage 3 (Years 7-8), one piece of homework per subject is assigned weekly, uploaded to Google Classroom, and assessed by teachers.



HEALTHY EATING/FIRST AID

At Newton International School D Ring, we promote healthy eating habits to support students' well-being, concentration, and overall development.

Canteen Services (Years 1-8)

A canteen service is available for students in Years 1-8, offering a variety of meal options for purchase each day.

- Payment: Children must bring money in an envelope, clearly labeled with their name, and hand it to their teacher.
- KS1 Purchases: For younger students (Years 1-2), parents should list the items they would like their child to purchase on the envelope. Teaching Assistants will assist in purchasing these items.
- KS2 & KS3 Purchases: Students in Years 3-8 have a scheduled break time each day to visit the canteen and make their own purchases.

Packed Lunch & Snack Guidelines

Students are encouraged to bring a healthy packed lunch and a refillable water bottle to school.

To ensure the safety and well-being of all students, we kindly request that parents follow these important guidelines:

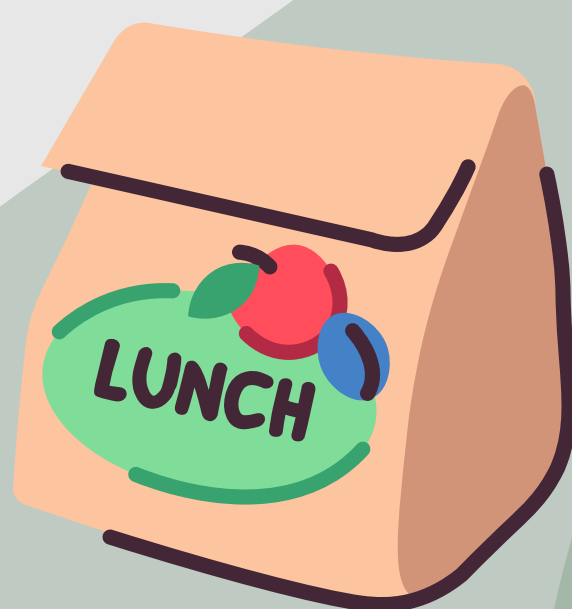
- No nuts or nut-based products – due to allergy risks.
- No whole grapes, large chunks of fruit, or other choking hazards – ensure fruit is cut into small pieces.
- No chocolates, sweets, or fizzy drinks – healthy choices are encouraged.
- No glass bottles or tins – only plastic bottles or cartons are permitted.
- No chewing gum – strictly forbidden on school premises.
- No food deliveries – students cannot receive external food deliveries during the school day.

By encouraging healthy eating habits and ensuring food safety, we aim to provide a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment for all students.

First Aid

If your child is unwell, to avoid spread of illness in class, we request you keep your child home and take them to the doctor. If your child falls ill while in school, they will be sent to the school nurse who will assess their symptoms. If required, you will be contacted to collect your child from the nurse. If your child requires medication, please contact the nurse and she will inform you of the information and consents you will be required to provide.

aaquino@nisdring.com



PARENT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

At Newton International School D Ring, we deeply value parental involvement in all aspects of school life. We believe that strong partnerships between parents and the school significantly enhance student success.

A Strong School Community

Newton International School D Ring has built a thriving, supportive, and engaged school community, where parents, students, and staff work together to create a positive learning environment. Our D Ring community is strong, and we are committed to ensuring that every family feels welcomed, valued, and heard.

Key Opportunities for Parent Engagement:

- Parent Information Evenings: An overview of the academic year, expectations, and curriculum.
- Parent Workshops: Sessions designed to support parents in helping their children at home.
- Parent-Teacher Interviews: Termly meetings to discuss student progress.
- Additional Meetings: Parents may request individual appointments with teachers, coordinators, or SMT via Reception.

At the beginning of the school year, we host an Open Evening, where staff present their goals and objectives for the year ahead. This is an excellent opportunity for parents to ask questions, meet teachers, and learn about their child's curriculum. Key Stage Coordinators and the Senior Management Team (SMT) will also be available to address any queries.

Parental Involvement in School Activities

Parents play a crucial role in creating enriching learning experiences for students and are warmly invited to participate in:

- Assemblies – Celebrating student achievements and milestones.
- Class Open Days – Observing student learning in action and engaging with classroom activities.
- Parent Workshops – Providing insights into curriculum areas, home learning support, and child development.

Parent Feedback & Surveys

To ensure that parents have a voice in shaping school policies and practices, we actively seek parental feedback through:

- Surveys after school events to gather insights and suggestions.
- Weekly parent feedback questions, helping us continuously improve our practices.

This approach allows us to enhance school policies, tailor workshops to meet parent needs, and strengthen communication between school and home. Our goal is to work together with parents to create the best possible learning environment for every child.

At Newton International School D Ring, we take pride in our strong and collaborative school community, where parents, students, and staff work hand in hand to support student learning and development.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

At Newton International School D Ring, assessment is an ongoing process that helps track student progress, identify areas for improvement, and support personalised learning.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

In EYFS, assessment is primarily conducted through observations. Teachers systematically observe students over time to gain an in-depth understanding of their development against the EYFS Framework. These observations provide valuable insights into children's progress across key learning areas and help teachers tailor their support accordingly.

Primary (Years 1-6)

Assessment in Primary is conducted through a combination of formative and summative assessments, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of each student's academic journey. This includes:

- Weekly spelling tests to reinforce phonics and literacy skills.
- Termly Mathematics check-ups and Mental Maths tests to assess numerical fluency.
- Mid-term exams that evaluate students' understanding of key concepts.
- End-of-term assessments that provide a broader measure of progress across subjects.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-8)

In Key Stage 3, assessment follows a structured approach to prepare students for higher education. Teachers implement:

- Ongoing assessments to monitor class performance.
- Mid-term exams in all core subjects.
- Project-based assessments to develop research and analytical skills.
- Formal end-of-term exams to evaluate overall progress.

Student Reports

Reports are issued at the end of each term, providing parents with insights into their child's academic strengths and areas for growth.

- Term 1 & Term 3 Reports – Comprehensive reports detailing progress across subjects, strengths, and areas for improvement.
- Term 2 Report – A summary of learning during Term 2, highlighting key achievements and areas of focus.
- National Curriculum Levels – Academic progress is reported following National Curriculum standards.

Reports are released before parent-teacher meetings to ensure meaningful discussions about student progress.

By maintaining a rigorous and transparent assessment system, Newton International School D Ring ensures that students receive the necessary support to thrive academically.

Safeguarding

At Newton International School D Ring, safeguarding is our top priority. We are committed to ensuring that all students learn in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment, free from harm, neglect, or abuse. Safeguarding involves protecting children’s well-being, promoting their safety, and ensuring that everyone in our community understands their role in keeping children safe.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Ms. Hickman, is responsible for overseeing all safeguarding matters. She is supported by our Designated Safeguarding Team, which includes:

- The School Principal
- The School Counsellor
- Representatives from EYFS, Primary, the Arabic Department, and Key Stage Three

Signs around the school identify the designated safeguarding team members. If you have any concerns about a child’s safety or well-being, please contact Ms. Hickman, our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

For more details, including our Safeguarding Policies, please visit the Newton International School D Ring website. Thank you for your support in ensuring the safety and well-being of all our students.



Newton
International School D-Ring Road

An International Community of Learners Striving for Excellence and Celebrating Success

Designated Safeguarding Team



Ms Hickman
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr Booth
KS3
Safeguarding



MS Aubrey
Medical
Safeguarding



Ms Lynch
EYFS
Safeguarding



Dr Soliman
AESN
Safeguarding



Ms Penney
Primary
Safeguarding

Our job is to keep you safe. If you are worried or worried about someone else we are here to help.

Uniforms

Please note that school uniforms can be purchased from NBA Barwa or NIS Lagoon, please contact the school office for up to date timings.

Parents can also place orders via the link below. <https://uniform.newtonschoools.qa/>
Students in all years must wear uniform designed specifically for Newton. In particular, please note that all students must wear jumper/cardigan, trousers purchased from the uniform shop. Boys must wear shirts with the McKenzie collar and sleeve trim.

This ensures consistency of standards. Shoes should be of a formal style and black in colour. Please see below some examples of correct and incorrect shoes.



EYFS



**Primary
KS3**



Winter



PE

 Location
**NIS Lagoon
NBA Barwa**

 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
**Saturday to
Thursday**

 newtongroup.uniform@gmail.com
50677734
Online Purchase
<https://uniform.newtonschoools.qa/>



ATTENDANCE COUNTS

ON TIME ALL DAY EVERY DAY

Attendance & Punctuality

Newton International School D Ring prioritises regular and uninterrupted attendance, as there is a strong correlation between academic success and attendance rates.

School Hours:

- Gates open: 6:20 am
- Registration: 7:00 am
- Late registration begins: 7:10 am

Absences & Approved Leave:

- Parents should email the class teacher if their child is absent.
- For absences longer than three days, the Attendance Officer will follow up.
- Medical certificates should be emailed to attendance@nisdring.com.
- Absences over 15 days will be addressed by senior management.

For medical or religious leave, parents must submit a Leave Application Form to the attendance officer.

Dropping of and Collecting Students

Please note that the two roads on the sides of the school are busy and congested in the mornings and afternoons. Parents and drivers are asked to be extremely vigilant and cautious when dropping off and picking up children. We encourage our children to practice good road safety when walking to and from their cars. We also encourage all children to wear seatbelts in both the front and back seats of the vehicle. Parents, Nannies and Drivers are asked not to come into the school building to collect children. Staff will be on all entrances to the school buildings and deliver children to you at the end of the school day.

Start of the Day

School gates open.....	6:30 am
Children enter class.....	6:40 am
Registration.....	7:10 am
End of Day Gates open for EYFS Parents.....	12:25 pm
Gates open for Primary and KS3 Parents.....	1:25 pm
After Care ends.....	2:30 pm

We encourage parents to avoid drop children into school between 6:30 am and 6:45 am to avoid traffic in the morning. In the afternoon collection after 1:45pm will also reduce your time spent in traffic.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Communication

Our main platform for communication is ClassDojo, where teachers will post letters, updates, and important information. Parents can also use the ClassDojo app to communicate directly with teachers.

In addition, our Senior Leadership Team is present in the playground and at the school gates before and after school for quick, informal discussions. If you would like a more in-depth conversation, appointments can be made for both teachers and leadership team members through the school reception.

For your convenience, key email addresses can be found at the end of this handbook.

School Trips

Each class will participate in at least one trip per term throughout the year. These trips are primarily educational, designed to complement classroom learning, though occasionally, students are taken on fun trips to celebrate achievements and reward hard work.

Full School Uniform Required:

All students must attend school trips in full school uniform to:

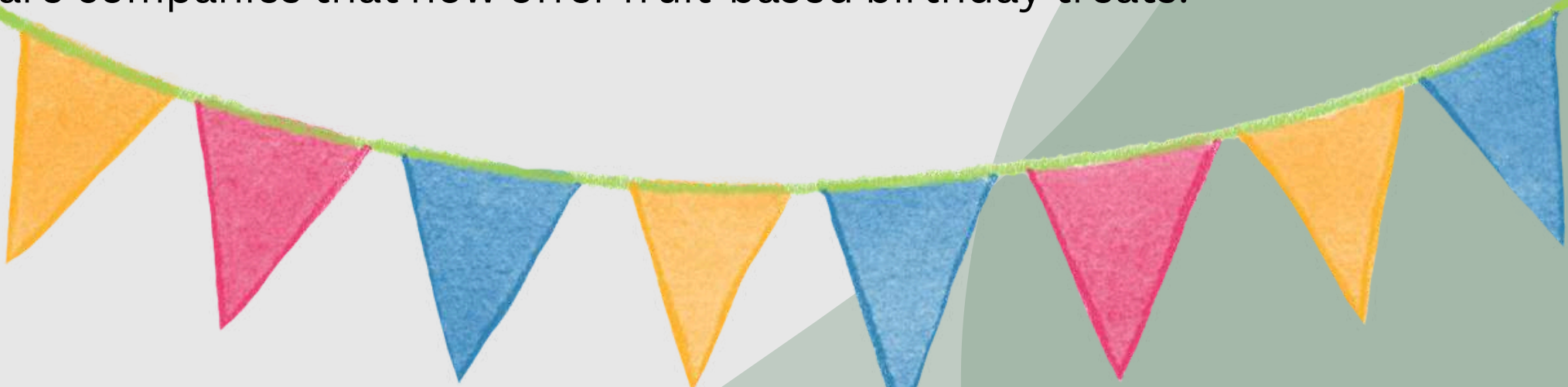
- Ensure easy identification of students during outings.
- Represent the school professionally at external venues.
- Maintain student safety by making it clear they are part of the school group.
- Permission Slips: It is essential that permission slips are returned on time—without a signed permission slip, students will not be able to attend.

Birthday Celebrations

We love celebrating students' birthdays while ensuring minimal disruption to learning. To keep celebrations simple and safe, the following guidelines must be followed:

- Birthdays will be celebrated in class on Thursday afternoons only
- Parents may send a cake for students to share at break-time.
- Notify the teacher in advance to ensure a smooth celebration.
- Bring the cake at the start of the school day to avoid disruptions.
- Pre-cut the cake to make distribution easier.
- Consider healthier alternatives, such as fruit arrangements.
- No candles – For safety reasons, open flames are not allowed.
- Simple celebrations – Full parties are best kept for outside school to avoid disruptions.
- Healthy choices – Fast food is not permitted, supporting our healthy eating policy.
- Inclusive for all – No gifts, toys, or party bags to ensure fairness among students.
- School security – External food deliveries are not allowed.
- Learning first – Celebrations are for students only; parents and siblings cannot attend.

Wherever possible, we encourage parents to use healthier alternatives to birthday cakes. There are companies that now offer fruit-based birthday treats.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

School Bus Service

A local bus service is available for transportation to and from the school.

Important Information:

- The contract is between parents and the bus company, not the school.
- Any concerns or queries can be addressed by contacting the Bus Manager, who:
 - Is available for direct phone contact.
 - Has an office based in the school, where parents can meet him for discussions.

Mobile Phones & Smart Devices

Mobile phones and smart devices are not permitted in school.

- Mobile phones: If a student brings and uses a mobile phone during the school day, it will be confiscated.
- Smartwatches & Fitness Bands:
 - Not allowed in school (including fitness trackers, Apple Watches, and similar devices).
 - Safeguarding concern – These devices can connect to the internet and communicate externally, which poses a risk to student safety.
 - Distraction in class – These devices can interfere with learning and concentration.

Any mobile phones will be collected by teachers each morning and not handed back until the child leaves at the end of the day.

The school will contact parents directly when necessary, so there is no need for students to have these devices during school hours.

The school is not responsible for any lost or stolen mobile phones or smart devices.

Extracurricular Activities (ECAs)

ECAs at Newton International School D Ring run once a week from 1:45 pm – 2:25 pm during Terms 1, 2, and 3. Activities include arts, crafts, sports, and recreational options.

- Sign-Up: Students must register each term; places are limited and assigned on a first come, first served basis.
- Participation: Each student may join one ECA per term to encourage variety.
- Pick-Up & Transport:
 - Non-ECA students must be collected at 1:30 pm.
 - Siblings must also be collected at 1:30 pm unless enrolled in an ECA.
 - Parents must arrange transport for bus students, as buses run at normal school hours.

We encourage students to explore different ECAs each term to develop new skills and interests!



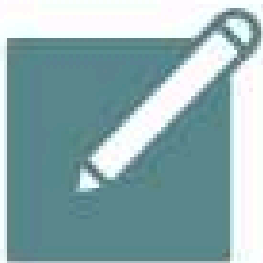


Contact Details



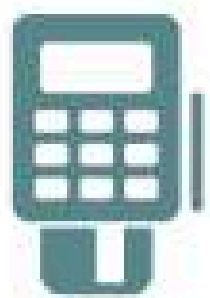
Admin

al newton.hilal@education.qa



Registrar

registrar@nisdring.com



Accounts

accounts@nisdring.com



Principal

ppenney@nisdring.com



Attendance

attendance@nisdring.com



Nurse

aaquino@nisdring.com



Phone

+974 44666246



<https://newtonschoools.sch.qa/schools/nis-d-ring/>