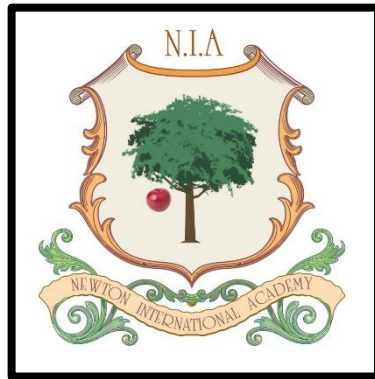


NEWTON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY LUSAIL EYFS PARENTS HANDBOOK



ACADEMIC
YEAR
2025 - 2026

*"An international community of learners
striving for excellence and celebrating
success"*



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Dear Parents,

We are truly delighted to welcome you and your child to Newton International Academy Lusail, a proud member of the Newton Group of Schools. Whether you are joining us for the first time or continuing your child's educational journey with us, we thank you for placing your trust in our care and community.

At NIA Lusail, our mission is to create a learning environment where every child is seen, supported, and stretched to reach their fullest potential. We aim to provide a well-rounded education that not only challenges students academically but also nurtures their personal growth, wellbeing, and sense of belonging.

NIA Lusail delivers the British National Curriculum through a lens that celebrates the values and traditions of Qatar. In doing so, we strive to prepare students to thrive as compassionate, confident, and capable young people in a rapidly changing global society. We are committed to developing independent learners who are proud of their heritage, respectful of others, and equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for the future.

This Parent Handbook has been carefully designed to provide you with a clear overview of our policies, expectations, routines, and values. It is intended to support you in understanding the day-to-day life of the school, and to highlight how we work in partnership with you to ensure that every child experiences success.

Strong home-school collaboration lies at the heart of all we do. We believe that open communication and mutual respect between staff, students, and families are the foundations for a thriving learning community.

We are excited to work alongside you this year as we continue to build an international school that stands for excellence, integrity, and care.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Wilson

Principal



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Dear Parents,

A warm welcome to the Early Years at Newton International Academy Lusail.

This handbook has been created to guide you through the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) experience at our school. It provides key information about our curriculum, routines, expectations, and how you can support your child's learning at home. We hope it will help you feel confident and informed as we begin this exciting journey together.

At NIA Lusail, we embrace the principles set out in the Statutory Framework for the EYFS:

"Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential."

We know that the early years are a crucial time in a child's development. The experiences your child has between birth and five will shape the foundation of their future learning, wellbeing, and success. That's why we place great emphasis on providing a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment — one where every child is known, valued, and encouraged to explore, create, and grow at their own pace.

Our passionate and caring staff are committed to helping each child develop confidence, independence, and a love for learning through purposeful play and engaging activities. We aim to spark curiosity, celebrate diversity, and cultivate key values such as respect, empathy, and responsibility from the very beginning.

At NIA Lusail, we truly believe that education is a partnership between school and home. We welcome your involvement and look forward to working closely with you to ensure your child's experience in the Early Years is happy, meaningful, and inspiring. Our focus is to consider the needs of the whole child: physical, social and emotional wellbeing, health, and learning and we welcome you to become part of that caring partnership. It is of paramount importance that effective working relationships are formed between school and home.

Together, we will *strive for excellence and celebrate success*.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas to share.

Kind regards,

Ms. Hannah Green

EYFS Coordinator



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Our EYFS Team

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at Newton International Academy Lusail consists of two year groups:

- Foundation Stage 1 (FS1) – for children aged 3–4 years
- Foundation Stage 2 (FS2) – for children aged 4–5 years

Each class is led by a qualified Class Teacher and supported by a dedicated Teaching Assistant. Together, they create a safe, engaging, and nurturing environment where young learners can thrive.

The overall Early Years programme is overseen by the EYFS Coordinator, and the Head of Primary and EYFS, ensuring consistency, high standards of care, and a shared commitment to early childhood development.

Vision, Mission, and Values

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 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.

Values	Attributes
RESPECT	Self- respect, respect for students/staff/parents and cultures. Respect for personal and community property.
HONESTY	Honesty in all our actions
TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION	Open and effective communication among students, staff and parents
EMPATHY	Understanding and appreciation of the feelings of others



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SUPPORT	Support the development of each individual to his/her full potential
DIVERSITY	Appreciation of all languages, traditions, religions and cultures
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	Development of responsible citizens through community service
PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY	Highest personal commitment to taking responsibility for our actions
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS	Respect for our environment

Important Information

First Day of School

On your child's first day, you will receive a set of forms to complete. Please return these to your child's class teacher promptly, as your child's safety and wellbeing are our top priorities.

You will be asked to:

- Provide emergency contact numbers and email addresses. Please notify the school office immediately of any changes.
- Inform us of the designated adult collecting your child. If this is someone other than a parent, we will require key information about this individual.
- Share any medical conditions or additional needs that may affect your child's wellbeing or participation in school.

What to Bring to School

To support your child's comfort and learning, please ensure they bring the following items daily:

1. A refillable water bottle
2. A sun hat
3. A healthy snack (no fizzy drinks, nuts, chocolate, crisps, or fast food)
4. A basic change of clothes
5. Their school folder (provided by the school)

Important: Please label all personal items clearly to avoid loss.

Note: Personal toys from home should not be brought to school, as we cannot guarantee their safe keeping.



School Timings

- **School Hours:** 7:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- **First Two Weeks:** Please note that modified timings will apply during the settling-in period.

Punctuality is essential. Late arrivals disrupt the learning environment and can cause worry for children. Please ensure timely drop-off and collection.

Late Arrival: Report to the office and collect a late slip.

Early Collection: Request a release slip from the school office in advance.

Settling Your Child into School

Starting school is a big step, and each child responds differently. If your child is nervous or upset:

- Reassure them, say goodbye, and leave confidently.
- Stay positive, your attitude will influence theirs.
- Praise their bravery and talk to them about their day.
- Trust that the staff are experienced and will offer comfort and support.

Most children settle within a few minutes once engaged in activities. We kindly ask parents not to stick around or return to the classroom during this period.

Attendance and Punctuality

- Attendance is **compulsory**.
- Absences must be explained with a valid medical certificate or written explanation from a parent.
- All pupils must arrive on time daily.

Key Procedures

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

At Newton International Academy Lusail, the safety and wellbeing of our students are our highest priority. To ensure secure and efficient drop-off and pick-up, we ask all families to follow the procedures outlined below:

Children must be collected by a parent or an authorised adult who has been approved by the school. If someone other than a parent will be collecting your child, you must provide A clear photograph and a copy of the QID (Qatar ID) of the authorised person.

Children will not be released to anyone who is not on the authorised collection list unless written confirmation and identification have been provided.

In the event of a last-minute change to the collection arrangement, please inform the school office via email or phone as early as possible. This ensures we maintain the safety of all students.



Road Safety

- Drive slowly and with caution around the school premises.
- Follow all traffic and parking guidance given by staff.
- Ensure children are safely assisted in and out of vehicles.
- All children must wear seatbelts while travelling to and from school.

School Transport

School transport is managed by an external provider. For information and registration, please contact the school office directly.

Absences and Late Arrivals

Regular attendance is vital to ensure continuity in learning and development. Frequent absences may lead to difficulty catching up, impacting both academic progress and social development.

Accidents and Sickness

If your child becomes ill or is injured during the school day:

- The school nurse will assess the situation and contact you if needed.
- Any required medication must be submitted to the school nurse with clear instructions and signed permission.

Do not send your child to school if he/she has a temperature. Notify the EYFS Nurse and Class Teacher immediately if your child contracts a contagious illness. The child cannot return to school unless he/she brings a medical certificate, which indicates freedom from infection. The following table gives the exclusion periods for some common illnesses.

Coughs and Colds	It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until they have been fever and medicine free for 24 hours. Encourage the child to throw away and used tissues and wash their hands regularly.
Chicken pox	If your child has chicken pox, keep them off school until the spots have crusted over. This usually takes about 5/7 days after the spots have first appeared.
Conjunctivitis	Until treated and no discharge from the eye or any discolouration.
Sore throat	You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they have a fever, they should stay at home until they feel better.
Head Lice	Treat head lice as soon as you spot them. You should check everyone in your household and treat them on the same day if they have head lice. Children can return to school once the condition has been treated.



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Impetigo	If your child has impetigo, they'll need antibiotic treatment from the Doctor. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share towels, cup and so on with others.
Fever	If your child has a fever, keep them off school until they have been fever and medicine free for 24 hours.
Vomiting and diarrhoea	Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school for 2 days after their symptoms have gone.

Uniform

Children must wear the correct school uniform each day. Uniforms are available at:

- **NBA Barwa**
- **NIA Lagoon**
- Or via the website: <https://uniform.newtonschools.qa>

Parent Communication

We use **ClassDojo** as our main platform for communication between school and home. Parents will receive an invitation to join via email on the first day of school. Through this platform, you'll receive:

- Daily updates and reminders
- Photos and learning highlights
- Direct messages from your child's teacher

Activity Weeks

At Newton International Academy Lusail, we believe in making learning meaningful, memorable, and fun. Throughout the academic year, we organise a variety of engaging themed weeks and school-wide events designed to enrich our curriculum and celebrate our school community.

These include:

- International Day
- Maths Week
- Qatar National Day
- Science Week
- Sports Day
- Book Week
- School Concert
- End-of-Year Celebrations
- School Fayre



These special weeks offer valuable opportunities for children to explore new topics, express their creativity, and build a sense of pride and belonging within the school. They also support the development of teamwork, confidence, and cultural awareness.

In addition to these special weeks, we will have several 'fun days' linked to various topics and occasions such as:

- Odd sock day
- Spots and stripes day
- End of topic dress up days
- House Colours Day
- Stay and Play

The Role of Parents

Parental involvement plays a vital role in the success of these events. Whether through volunteering, attending performances, contributing to cultural displays, or simply encouraging your child to participate, your support is incredibly valuable. These shared experiences help strengthen the partnership between home and school and create lasting memories for our students. Where needed, some events may be held virtually to ensure accessibility and inclusion for all families.

Assessment and Reports

Your child will be continuously assessed through observations and practical learning. Formal reports will be sent home at the end of each term.

Assessment focuses on:

- Individual progress
- Engagement in learning
- Development across all areas of the EYFS framework

Educational Trips

All EYFS classes will participate in at least two trips per year, either educational or recreational. Permission slips must be signed and returned in advance. All trips follow Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE) guidelines for safety and supervision.

NIA Parent Charter

At NIA Lusail, we believe in mutual respect between parents and staff. We kindly ask that all members of our school community:

- Treat every member of staff with courtesy and respect
- Communicate in a calm, polite, and professional manner
- Set a positive example for children by modelling respectful interactions



Our shared commitment to these principles helps us maintain a safe and supportive school environment for all.

The Early Years Framework

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for learning, development, and care from birth to age five. It is built around four key themes:

1. **A Unique Child** – Every child is capable and confident.
2. **Positive Relationships** – Children thrive in loving, secure relationships.
3. **Enabling Environments** – A rich environment supports exploration and learning.
4. **Learning and Development** – All areas are interconnected and equally important.

Areas of Learning and Development

Prime Areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Specific Areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

For more information, visit:

Development Matters – www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications

What Will My Child Learn?

The EYFS curriculum at NIA Lusail is delivered through topic-based planning, both indoors and outdoors, and through a balance of child-led and adult-led activities.

By the end of Foundation 2, most children will work towards achieving the Early Learning Goals, although development varies between individuals.

How Will My Child Be Assessed?

Your child will be observed regularly across all learning areas. These observations help us track progress and inform our teaching. We recognise and support the uniqueness of each child, especially in a multilingual setting.

If you wish to read the objectives, you can read more a here:

[Development Matters - Non-statutory curriculum guidance for the early year's foundation stage \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)



How Can I Help My Child at Home?

Learning at home plays a powerful role in early development. You can help by:

- Talking and listening to your child
- Reading books together
- Singing rhymes and songs
- Exploring through play, baking, or arts and crafts
- Giving praise and encouragement for small achievements

Homework

- **Foundation 1:** No formal homework.
- **Foundation 2:**
 - Weekly phonics and maths homework from Term 2 onwards
 - Reading books provided via online platform

We encourage all parents to read with their child at least three times per week.

Policies

At Newton Lusail, the following school policies can be found on our website:

- Attendance and Punctuation
- Behaviour Management
- Communication
- Curriculum

A Warm Welcome

We are excited to begin this journey with your child and family. Thank you for choosing Newton International Academy, Lusail. We are committed to supporting every child to thrive, grow, and love learning.

Warm regards,
The EYFS Team