



## Secondary Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) Policy

### 1. Rationale:

NIA's vision as a school of international learners striving for excellence, recognises the importance of a rounded, holistic education; which includes developing a child's physical, emotional and social well-being. This requires NIA to provide opportunities for children to develop their own interests and talents, beyond the taught curriculum. A well organised, planned and delivered ECA programme therefore plays a pivotal role in achieving a balanced curriculum which has both breadth and depth.

### 2. Aim:

To ensure the delivery and monitoring of an effective ECA programme, which is intrinsic to our school mission of allowing children to not only achieve their potential but exceed their potential.

### 3. Objectives:

- Provide activities which allow all children to develop the schools common shared values.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to develop new skills, their own unique talents and competencies.
- Provide opportunities for children to collaborate, to work both in teams and independently and to gain an appreciation for a range of activities that they can pursue out of school and through-out their lives.
- Ensure clubs and activities are designed to promote a positive attitude and to help pupils channel their leisure time constructively - developing the virtues of patience, self- discipline and resilience.
- Ensure a comprehensive programme of ECAs is offered and effectively delivered including sporting, STEM, artistic, musical, cultural, literary, and social and leisure activities.
- Ensure continuity of provision of those ECAs (e.g Physical Education lessons) that require practise, so children can develop their skills through time.
- Provide children with the opportunity to forge new friendships, to develop their interpersonal skills and to foster good relationships between teachers and pupils.

### 4. Organisation:

- All class and subject teachers including Arabic teachers, are required to lead or assist in the running of ECAs and after school academic support classes in terms 1, 2 and 3.
- ECAs will run throughout the terms from the second week of term and usually finish 2 to 3 weeks before the end of term, when exams are on.
- All pupils are encouraged to attend at least one activity for the duration of the term. Pupils can attend more than one ECA.
- Sport Teams training is only available for students selected by the coaches in team trials.



- Activities must be approved by SMT, before they are offered to children and promoted to Parents.
- Activities will run regardless of how many pupils sign-up for a particular ECA. Should no pupils sign-up for an ECA, the teacher/s organising the ECA will be asked to move to another ECA to assist.
- Children may opt to join a paid club (e.g. Karate, Ballet, Swimming) in-addition to a school run ECA.
- ECAs do not take place when Parent Teacher Consultations are scheduled.
- Teachers may offer activities across the school – not only to the year groups that they teach.
- Teachers are responsible for ensuring that the ECA adheres to NIAs Health and Safety Policy which appears as a separate document.
- The school PTA and Student Council and Prefects will be invited to volunteer, to help run clubs, in support of club supervisors.
- Students identified as cause for concern after termly or mock exams are strongly encouraged to attend academic support ECAs for subjects they are failing.

## 5. Information issued to Parents:

- A *Parent ECA letter* will be issued at the start of term, listing the different clubs offered. The letter will be accompanied by a schedule showing the ECA times, locations and club supervisor names (online ECAs will also have Google classrooms allocated).
- Parents will be invited to inform the school in writing if they wish their child to attend a club. Where a club requires payment – parents will be asked to pay the school cashier before the club starts.
- A clear deadline must be given to Parents for the return of reply slips confirming ECA attendance and or payment of a club, to allow ample time for the ECA programme to be effectively organised.
- Supervisors must maintain a current membership register of club attendance and must ensure that parents are kept informed of any changes in the events timings etc.
- Parents of pupils who travel by bus will be informed that they will need to provide their own transport as the bus service will continue to leave at 1:40.

## 6. Recording & Monitoring attendance:

- An attendance register must be taken at the start of each ECA.

## 7. Promoting & Reporting:

- ECAs will be discussed at the start of each term in assemblies.
- ECAs will be reported on in the end of term Parent Newsletters and the annual NIA Year Book.
- Displays in reception promoting ECA activities will support photos and write-ups on the school website.



## 8. Review & Evaluation:

- ECAs are evaluated termly by staff and students as well as SMT and if there is need more or different ECAs are offered in the next term.
- An ECA Coordinator (Head of Academics and Head of PE) will oversee and quality assure the organisation and delivery of an ECA programme in each school section.
- Each term staff will complete planning for ECAs to allow monitoring and review of provision of the ECA programme.

## 9. Equity Statement

The Newton Group does not unlawfully discriminate in employment or in its programmes and activities. All staff have equal access and inclusive rights to their work regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, race, disability or ability. The Newton Group is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

# Newton International Academy

[www.newtonschools.sch.qa](http://www.newtonschools.sch.qa)

An International community of learners striving for excellence and celebrating success

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