



WhatsApp Policy

Many parents are members of WhatsApp or other social media groups that connect parents in a particular class. Ideally, the group chats are useful places to share information regarding your child's day in school; receiving updates and reminders about school events; as well as sharing parenting advice. Most of the time, these group chats can be a great resource and an enjoyable place to be in. But, as with many things in life, there are those unfortunate times where someone in the group may say something inappropriate.

If you have a query or concern about the teacher or the school leadership it is best go and talk to them directly. Face to face is always the best way.

Confidentiality about any discussions concerning children is of paramount importance. When writing, remember that whatever you say on social media may be forwarded to someone else, and in a few minutes it may be seen by half the school.

The law in Qatar is very strict about posting negative statements about people, businesses or organisations. The school will not tolerate any form of defamation or intentional harm practiced through social media forums. In order to prevent any miscommunications, here are some guidelines:

- Parents using any social media forum must, at all times, demonstrate respect for all members of the school community (including all students and personnel);
- Class WhatsApp groups should be accessible to all parents with children in the class;
- The Class WhatsApp group must not be used to discuss complaints or grievances. These should be raised initially with the Class Teacher. We have a Complaints Policy to handle all forms of issues and this is designed to address matters quickly and effectively;
- Parents and students must not breach confidentiality, defame or make derogatory remarks to any person in the school community. Instances of proven and intentional breach of the above will result in sanctions that may include Suspension from the school;
- Class WhatsApp groups must be conducted with these requirements in mind and the School reserves the right to inspect and moderate content to ensure compliance with official requirements.

This policy refers to the use of any internet platform or electronic means used for the dissemination of views, opinions and discussions about children educated by Newton Schools, Newton Schools' policies and practices and those employed by the group.