

6 February 2024

**Education Bureau Circular No. 6/2024
National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem,
Regional Flag and Regional Emblem**

[Note: This circular should be read by –

- (a) Supervisors and heads of all kindergartens, primary and secondary schools (including special schools) – for action; and
- (b) Supervisors and heads of private schools offering non-formal curricula and heads of sections – for information.]

Summary

This circular provides the latest guidelines on the following matters, and information on relevant curriculum resources and support measures for schools' reference:

- (1) display of the national flag¹ and regional flag²;
- (2) conduct of a national flag raising ceremony; and
- (3) inclusion of the national flag, national emblem³, national anthem⁴, regional flag and regional emblem⁵ in primary and secondary education.

2. This circular supersedes Education Bureau (EDB) Circular No. 11/2021 dated 11 October 2021.

¹ Referring to the national flag of the People's Republic of China.

² Referring to the regional flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

³ Referring to the national emblem of the People's Republic of China.

⁴ Referring to the national anthem of the People's Republic of China.

⁵ Referring to the regional emblem of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

Details

3. The national flag, national emblem and national anthem, being symbols and signs representing our country, as well as the regional flag and regional emblem, being symbols and signs representing the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), should be respected. Fostering students' sense of national identity is a key learning goal of primary and secondary education. Enabling students to understand the development of their own country in different aspects, such as history, culture, economy, technology and political systems and laws, as well as cultivating in them a sense of nationhood are the educational obligation of schools, which is also part of Values Education (including national education, Constitution and Basic Law Education, and national security education). Kindergartens should, having regard to young children's abilities, help them acquire an initial understanding of the national flag, national emblem, national anthem, regional flag and regional emblem, so as to foster a sense of nationhood and national identity among them from an early age.

National Flag, National Emblem, Regional Flag and Regional Emblem

4. The Law of the People's Republic of China on the National Flag (National Flag Law) and the Law of the People's Republic of China on the National Emblem (National Emblem Law) were listed in Annex III to the Basic Law as early as on 1 July 1997 and were applied locally on the same day through the enactment of the National Flag and National Emblem Ordinance (NFNEO). The Regional Flag and Regional Emblem Ordinance (RFREO) was also enacted in the HKSAR on the same day.

5. Having regard to the amendments to the National Flag Law and the National Emblem Law endorsed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on 17 October 2020, the HKSAR Government implemented the applicable provisions of the two amended national laws locally through amendments to the NFNEO. The amended NFNEO was enacted on 8 October 2021. The spirit of the NFNEO is to safeguard the proper use and preserve the dignity of the national flag and national emblem, which are the symbols and signs of our country, so as to promote respect for the national flag and national emblem, enhance the sense of national identity among citizens and promote patriotism.

6. In light of the amendments to the NFNEO in 2021, the HKSAR Government, upon detailed examination, decided to amend the RFREO so as to ensure suitable alignment between the two ordinances. The amended RFREO has come into effect on 24 November 2023. The spirit of the RFREO is to safeguard and promote the proper use of the regional flag and regional emblem and preserve their dignity, so that the public will make good use of the regional flag and regional emblem to express their love and support for the HKSAR whilst showing respect for the regional flag and regional emblem.

7. For the full text of the NFNEO and amended RFREO, please refer to the following webpages:

elegislation.gov.hk/hk/A401

elegislation.gov.hk/hk/A602

8. Pursuant to Article 7A of the NFNEO and amended RFREO, the EDB has included the national flag, national emblem, regional flag and regional emblem in primary and secondary education. All primary and secondary schools (including special schools) must educate students on the history and spirit of the national flag and national emblem, the symbolic significance of the regional flag and regional emblem, the regulation of displaying and using the national flag and regional flag, and the etiquette to be followed in a national flag raising ceremony and any ceremony when a regional flag is raised.

National Anthem

9. The National Anthem Ordinance (NAO), which was enacted according to the Law of the People's Republic of China on the National Anthem in Annex III to the Basic Law, came into effect on 12 June 2020. The spirit of the NAO is to respect the national anthem, and there should not be any public and intentional acts to insult the national anthem or use it in an improper way. The EDB has included the national anthem in primary and secondary education according to Article 9 of the NAO. All primary and secondary schools must enable students to learn to sing the national anthem, and understand its history and spirit, as well as to observe the etiquette when the national anthem is being played and sung. For the full text of the NAO, please refer to the webpage:

elegislation.gov.hk/hk/A405

10. For more information on the national flag, national emblem, national anthem, regional flag and regional emblem, schools can visit the webpage of the Protocol Division of the Government Secretariat:



<https://www.protocol.gov.hk/en/flags.html>

Display of National Flag and Regional Flag and Conduct of National Flag Raising Ceremony

11. All primary and secondary schools (including special schools) must display the national flag on each school day (except for inclement weather conditions such as tropical cyclones and/or heavy persistent rain), as well as New Year's Day (1 January), HKSAR Establishment Day (1 July) and National Day (1 October), to show their respect for the country and enhance the sense of nationhood among teachers and students. Schools should display the regional flag alongside the national flag if there are adequate flagpoles. In case of special circumstances where special arrangement for the display of the national flag and regional flag has to be made⁶, schools should pay attention to the press release of the HKSAR Government or notice from the EDB.

12. To promote national education and to help students develop a sense of nationhood, an affection for the Chinese people and enhance their sense of national identity, primary and secondary schools (including special schools) must conduct a national flag raising ceremony weekly (except for school holidays during which no such ceremony can be held⁷). The national anthem should be played and sung in a national flag raising ceremony. Schools are also required to conduct a national flag raising ceremony on New Year's Day, HKSAR Establishment Day and National Day, or on the preceding/following school day of the above days. Schools are strongly advised to conduct a national flag raising ceremony on important days and special occasions⁸. All participants should observe the relevant etiquette when attending a national flag raising ceremony to show their respect for the country, and the symbols and signs representing the country, as well as demonstrate their good quality as nationals.

⁶ For example, the HKSAR Government announces flying the national flag at half staff owing to the occurrence of unfortunate events.

⁷ Such as summer vacation and long holidays at Christmas, Lunar New Year and Easter.

⁸ Such as the first day of a school year, open day, graduation ceremony, swimming gala/sports day, school anniversary events, National Constitution Day and Chinese Culture Day.

13. As far as conditions permit, kindergartens should, having considered factors such as availability of space, facilities and environment, follow the requirements of primary and secondary schools on displaying the national flag and regional flag and conducting a national flag raising ceremony, so that students can learn about the national flag, national anthem and regional flag from an early age. For kindergartens which are not able to display the national flag on each school day and conduct a national flag raising ceremony every week due to the constraints of space, facilities, environment, etc., if they have movable flagpoles, they should conduct a national flag raising ceremony when holding celebration activities for New Year’s Day, HKSAR Establishment Day and National Day. Besides, kindergartens are strongly advised to conduct a national flag raising ceremony on important days and special occasions⁸. International schools, as well as other private primary, secondary schools and kindergartens offering solely non-local curricula are also encouraged to refer to the requirements mentioned in paragraphs 11 to 12 above, and arrange for displaying the national flag and regional flag, as well as conducting a national flag raising ceremony based on the actual school circumstances, in order to enable students of different ethnicities or nationalities to learn about the culture and history of the country where they live. All participants should also observe the relevant etiquette when attending a national flag raising ceremony to show their respect for the country where they are in.

14. Schools should note the proper ways of raising and lowering the national flag and regional flag, and follow the regulations stipulated in the NFNEO and amended RFREO. For points to note on raising and lowering the national flag and regional flag, the conduct of a national flag raising ceremony and other relevant information, schools can visit the theme-based resources webpage on “Getting to know the National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem, Regional Flag and Regional Emblem”:

<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/nationalsymbols>



As for the demonstration on the school’s flag raising ceremony, please refer to:

<https://www.edb.gov.hk/demonstrationvideo>




Education on National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem, Regional Flag and Regional Emblem

15. The learning contents about the national flag, national emblem, national anthem, regional flag and regional emblem have long been incorporated into different subjects (such as General Studies at the primary level, Music, Chinese History as well as Citizenship and Social Development at the senior secondary level) and Values Education under the local curriculum. Schools should adopt the approaches of “organic integration”, “natural connection”, “diversified strategies”, “mutual coordination”, “learning within and beyond the classroom”, and “whole-school participation” in introducing the national flag, national emblem, national anthem, regional flag and regional emblem correctly, as well as teach students about the history and spirit of the national flag, national emblem and national anthem, the symbolic significance of the regional flag and regional emblem, the regulation of displaying and using the national flag and regional flag, and the etiquette to be followed at a national flag raising ceremony and any ceremony when the regional flag is raised. To support schools in enabling students to learn about and respect the symbols and signs representing the country (including their history and spirit, the regulation and etiquette of their use), to sing the national anthem and to observe the etiquette when the national anthem is being played and sung, the EDB has also been providing schools with curriculum support measures, which include the following:

- (i) The “National Education One-stop Portal” online resources platform (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/neosp>) has been established to facilitate teachers and students’ browsing and searching of diversified resources related to the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security education, the national flag, national emblem, national anthem, regional flag and regional emblem, etc. to support learning and teaching; 
- (ii) The “Getting to know the National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem, Regional Flag and Regional Emblem” theme-based resources webpage of the EDB (<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/nationalsymbols>) will be updated/enriched on an ongoing basis to provide primary and secondary schools offering the local curriculum with relevant learning and teaching resources, including brief descriptions of the national flag, 

national emblem, national anthem, regional flag and regional emblem, as well as points to note, relevant materials and useful links regarding the raising and display of the national flag and regional flag in schools as well as the national emblem and regional emblem. The English version of the webpage is available for the reference of international schools and other private schools offering solely non-local curricula;

- (iii) The Learning and Teaching of the National Anthem: Supplement to the Music Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 – Secondary 3) (the Supplement) was compiled and uploaded to the EDB website  (https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/music_supplement) in June 2020. Schools offering the local curriculum should adopt the Supplement in full and teach students to sing the national anthem and observe the relevant etiquette when the national anthem is being played and sung; and
- (iv) Teacher professional development programmes are provided so as to enhance the understanding among teachers on how to make good use of flag raising ceremonies in schools (including the points to note while raising and lowering the national flag and regional flag in schools; knowledge of the national flag and regional flag, as well as the etiquette for performing a national flag raising ceremony, and playing and singing the national anthem) to foster students' sense of national identity and promote national education in schools.

The learning and teaching resources on the national flag, national emblem, national anthem, regional flag and regional emblem have been uploaded to the EDB website (**see Annex**) for schools' reference and use.

16. At the kindergarten level, singing the national anthem and raising the national flag and regional flag are learning activities to help young children understand the country. Schools may help young children recognise the HKSAR as a part of the country, and acquire an initial understanding of the country and the Chinese culture, thereby developing a sense of national identity. As for international schools and other private schools offering solely non-local curricula, they may, in light of their own circumstances and students' backgrounds, flexibly adopt strategies and devise appropriate teaching contents and learning

activities, so that students of different ethnicities or nationalities can learn about the culture and history of the country where they live, and respect the national flag, national emblem and national anthem, which are the symbols and signs of the country where they are in. At the same time, this can also enhance the sense of national identity among the local students of these schools.

17. For further information on the daily display of the national flag and regional flag, as well as the weekly conduct of a national flag raising ceremony, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem, Regional Flag and Regional Emblem, which can be accessed via the following path:

EDB Homepage (<https://www.edb.gov.hk>) > School Administration and Management > Administration > [About School](#)






Enquiries




18. For enquiries, please contact the respective Senior School Development Officer or Senior Service Officer.


Ms Rio CHEUNG
for Secretary for Education

Learning and Teaching Resources on National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem, Regional Flag and Regional Emblem

The learning and teaching resources on the national flag, national emblem, national anthem, regional flag and regional emblem have been uploaded to the EDB website. For details, please check out the following websites or scan the QR codes on the right.

Learning and teaching resources	Brief description	QR code
Web-based Resource Platform “National Education One-stop Portal”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This platform provides teachers and students with a one-stop solution to access the information on teacher professional development programmes, reading materials, video clips and online games related to the Constitution, the Basic Law and national security education, as well as the national flag, national emblem, national anthem, regional flag and regional emblem. ● Website: https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/neosp 	
Theme-based resources webpage on “Getting to know the National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem, Regional Flag and Regional Emblem”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This webpage provides learning and teaching resources, including brief descriptions of the national flag, national emblem, national anthem, regional flag and regional emblem, as well as points to note on the display of the national flag and regional flag in schools, and other relevant information and useful links. ● Website: https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/nationalsymbols 	
Infographics Series: National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem, Regional Flag and Regional Emblem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This collection aims to give students an easy-to-understand overview of the origin and spirit of the national flag, national emblem, national anthem, regional flag and regional emblem. ● Website: https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/4-key-tasks/moral-civic/Newwebsite/flagraising.html#7 	

Learning and teaching resources	Brief description	QR code
Examples of Learning and Teaching Strategies/Learning Activities on the National Anthem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The learning elements related to the national anthem are included in the curriculum of kindergarten education, General Studies at the primary level, Chinese History and Citizenship and Social Development at the senior secondary level, as well as Music and Values Education at the primary and secondary levels. Teachers are provided with examples of teaching strategies/learning activities on the national anthem. Students can gain knowledge of the national anthem, develop a sense of national identity and show full respect to the national anthem. ● Website: http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/NA_samples 	
Audio Picture Book “Our National Flag, National Anthem and Regional Flag”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This resource, in the form of an audio picture book, brings out the importance of respecting the national flag, national anthem and regional flag, and also the etiquette to be observed and attitude to be adopted during the raising of the flags, as well as the playing and singing of the national anthem at celebration activities held on important days and special occasions. ● Video: https://emm.edcity.hk/media/1_mh1zs4tu 	
Audio Picture Book “The Display of the National Flag and the Regional Flag”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This resource, in the form of an audio picture book, aims to enable students to acquire the knowledge and the proper ways of displaying the national flag and regional flag so as to raise their awareness of the national symbols as well as cultivate in them a sense of nationhood. ● Video: https://emm.edcity.hk/media/1_yyqhr3da 	

Learning and teaching resources	Brief description	QR code
<p>“Little National Affairs Experts” Interactive Quiz Game Resource Pack (Chinese version only)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This resource pack introduces quiz games by phases to help students of different key stages learn about the Constitution, the Basic Law, national security, the national flag, national emblem, national anthem and regional flag in a relaxing and interesting atmosphere so that they can deepen their understanding of our country and develop a sense of national identity. ● Website: https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/4-key-tasks/moral-civic/1 and t/basic law education/expert game.html 	
<p>Educational Video “The Symbols of our Nation and Hong Kong SAR: the National Flag, the National Anthem and the Regional Flag”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This resource, in the form of a video, brings out the importance of respecting the symbols of our nation and the HKSAR – the national flag, national anthem and regional flag. The video introduces the history, spirit, musical features and standard scores of the national anthem, as well as the design and meanings of the national flag and regional flag. ● Video: https://emm.edcity.hk/media/1_xeue6magg 	