

3.1 Continuously implementing the “Blue Sky Project”

In order to optimise the teaching environment, and strive to create more conditions so that all school-age children have the opportunity to receive high quality non-tertiary education, the SAR Government announced the “Blue Sky Project” in 2015 to gradually address the issue of 14 formal education schools in 15 podium buildings through short-term, mid-term and long-term planning. For the purpose of promoting the “Blue Sky Project”, the DSEJ actively discusses with the running entities and representatives of the schools to seek consensus, considering student welfare as the first priority, so that the plans resolving the issue can be confirmed as soon as possible.

Since the launch of the project, three schools (Escola da Associação Geral das Mulheres de Macau, Escola Cáritas de Macau and Escola São João de Brito) have relocated from podium school buildings. The DSEJ respectively signed the “letters of intent to participate in the Blue Sky Project” with the running entities of 4 schools, namely, Escola Hoi Fai in November 2016, Escola Pui Tou in June 2017, Escola Tong Sin Tong and Escola Kwong Tai in March 2018. Currently, the work of land granting, reconstruction, construction and expansion is promoted in accordance with each school’s plan of addressing the issue.

The DSEJ will continue to achieve consensus with other running entities and school representatives, as well as tackle the issue of podium school buildings through the expansion of the original school building, granting land for educational use – Canidrome land, District A of the New Urban Zone, and so forth, so as to promote and implement the “Blue Sky Project” actively.



The ceremony of signing the letter of intent with
Escola Tong Sin Tong



The ceremony of signing the letter of intent with
Escola Kwong Tai

3.2 Creating a harmonious school environment and carrying out safety education

(1) Preventing bullying and creating a harmonious school environment

In order to create an atmosphere of “zero tolerance for school bullying, not neglecting school violence”, the DSEJ formed a working group in 2018 to use the existing resources, deepen measures of interdepartmental cooperation, further make use of the advantages of community cooperation as well as create a safe and harmonious environment for students’ learning and growth, based on the current school-based bullying prevention work. In December of the same year, the webpage of “Harmonious School Environment – Convey Love, Say No to Bullying” was set up, and channels for help and a special message area were provided.

In addition, the DSEJ continued to encourage students, teachers and parents to take school bullying behaviour seriously as well as enhance their competence in dealing with such behaviour through student counselling, moral education work, home-school collaboration, parenting education and teacher professional training. In the academic year 2017/2018, student counsellors organised a total of 216 activities for school students on the themes of preventing school violence/ bullying, rejecting deviant behaviour/ self-protection, techniques for dealing with conflict as well as preventing violation of laws and rules, with a total of 10,976 participants (by frequency).

(2) Organising sharing sessions on life education

In order to enhance the resilience of teenagers and encourage them to establish a positive outlook on life, a life education activity entitled “Live with positive energy, embrace the future” was organised. Through the sharing of the invited speaker – anti-cancer warrior Cheang Cheng Man, students were encouraged to cope with the difficulties and frustration in life, care for the people and things around them and live a wonderful life of self-reliance. 15 schools, 267 teachers and more than 4,000 students in total participated in the sharing sessions.



One of the Life Education Sharing Sessions – Group photo

(3) Organising “Exchange Session on Moral Education Work”

On 17th November 2018, “Exchange Session on Moral Education Work – There are always Companions along the Path of Education” on the theme of “cooperative spirit and communication skills” was organised. The exchange session invited experienced educators of Hong Kong and Macao to deliver thematic lectures on and exchange experience in school moral education, so as to deal with specific issues such as student bullying and interpersonal communication more effectively, promote students’ personal well-being and create a harmonious school environment. A total of 251 educators from 50 schools including secondary schools, primary schools and kindergartens participated in the exchange session.



Group photo of the participants of the “Exchange Session on Moral Education Work” with the keynote speakers



The keynote speakers responding to the questions from the participating teachers

(4) Safety education (disaster prevention) school work

In order to raise the crisis awareness of disasters among all school staff, increase their disaster prevention knowledge and skills, and reduce the damage to schools caused by future disasters, the DSEJ initiated the formulation of school disaster prevention work and obtained professional advice from the Unitary Police Service, the Fire Services Bureau, the Health Bureau as well as the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau. Besides, after listening to the opinions from the education sector especially from the schools in the flood-prone low-lying areas, the *School Disaster Prevention Work Plan* and the appendix – *Guidelines for School Disaster Prevention* were formulated. On 16th April 2018, the “Explanatory Session on School Disaster Prevention Work” was held with the Unitary Police Service, and more than 300 people including the school leaders and the related staff attended the explanatory session.

At the same time, the DSEJ also assisted the Macao Association of Retired Firefighters to hold 25 “Sharing Sessions on Firefighters’ Spirit of Helping People and Disaster Prevention Awareness” to share basic emergency knowledge of disaster mitigation, so as to encourage schools to promote safety education activities. More than 3,700 primary and junior secondary students participated in the sharing sessions.

According to the provisions of “School Disaster Prevention Work Plan” and the appendix – “Guidelines for School Disaster Prevention”, all Macao schools are required to divide the school crisis management team members into different groups, formulate their own drill scripts, route maps for evacuation and assembly, guidelines for response and list of items needed. Two disaster prevention drills are required to be conducted each year. In 2018, the first disaster prevention drill of all Macao schools was conducted in the form of a tabletop exercise in May and June. The DSEJ, together with the Unitary Police Service, the Fire Services Bureau as well as the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau visited the schools to publicise, promote and assist them to carry out the work. The second disaster prevention drill was conducted in the form of a live drill between October and December, the DSEJ, the Unitary Police Service, the Customs Service, the Public Security Police Force, the Judiciary Police and the Fire Services Bureau jointly participated in the drill to explain the relevant disaster prevention knowledge to teachers and students, interacted and exchanged with the school crisis management teams as well as provided professional advice for the drill process.



Explanatory Session on School Disaster Prevention Work



Tabletop exercise in disaster prevention



Disaster prevention live drill – students' evacuation



Disaster prevention live drill – review meeting

(5) Relevant teaching resources and training of teaching staff

In order to support schools in implementing disaster prevention work plans and guidelines, enhance students' knowledge, skills and attitude of preventing and facing disasters as well as deepen schools' safety education, the DSEJ published the *Safety Education Supplementary Teaching Materials* in 2018 for schools to use in the academic year 2018/2019. The *Safety Education Supplementary Teaching Materials* include three books in total, namely, the Kindergarten Edition, Primary School Edition and Secondary School Edition. The selected content includes students' safety at home, in the school and in the community, and so forth, as well as common disasters in Macao such as typhoon, flooding, fire disaster, gas disaster and gas poisoning. The content of disaster prevention, mitigation and response is compiled in a systematic way, using easy-to-understand methods such as text, photos and diagrams. The books provide resources for schools and teachers to implement safety educational activities.



Safety Education Supplementary Teaching Materials

In addition, a series of educational TV programmes on the theme of "Disaster Prevention Tips" were produced to raise the crisis awareness of the audience. The programmes increased the public's awareness of disaster prevention through simulation scenarios, presenter's introduction and professionals' explanation of the correct methods of preventing and responding to natural disasters and emergencies. The topics included typhoon, heavy rain, fire disaster, safe use of electricity, crises often encountered during travel, extreme weather, and so forth.

Besides, in order to enable the teaching staff to grasp the importance of creating a harmonious atmosphere in school, 8 related professional development activities were held in the academic year 2018/2019, with a total of 364 participants. In the aspect of promoting safety education and enhancing disaster prevention education, 3 training sessions were held for teaching staff, with a total of 95 participants.

3.3 Increasing special education therapists and parent training

The DSEJ adjusted the subsidy system and amount for therapeutic services from March 2018 to attract more local and foreign therapists to provide services for students with therapeutic needs. In December 2018, the total number of various therapists/ language trainers increased by about 46 when compared with the number of those in September 2017, of which the number of expatriate therapists increased by 15. The waiting time for students attending regular classes in private schools to receive treatment/ training services has been shortened from 18 months, the longest in the past, to approximately less than 2 months currently.

In the aspect of parent training in special education, the DSEJ continued to organise a series of training activities on “All-round assistance for children’s growth”. The topics included autism, attention deficit, social communication, children’s language development, children’s gross and fine motor movements, and so forth. In 2018, there were approximately 1,000 training places offered, with an increase of approximately 400 training places when compared to those in 2017. In addition, in order to assist parents in conducting appropriate training activities for their children at home, in July and October 2018, the DSEJ set up two Parent Resource Centres which provide training aids for students with special educational needs and offer venues for the related organisations to hold relevant educational lectures and workshops.

3.4 Enhancing the national flag, national emblem and national anthem education

In order to deepen the teaching staff’s understanding of the history, spirit and connotations of the national flag, national emblem and national anthem, the national flag-raising ceremony and procedural steps, so that they carry out the relevant education work in schools effectively, thereby enhancing the patriotism of students, the DSEJ has started to organise the activity of “Introduction of the National Flag and the National Anthem” since the academic year 2017/2018. Three sessions of the activity have been held as of the academic year 2018/2019, with a total of 69 schools and 401 teaching staff (by frequency) participating in the sessions. In addition, in order to enable the teaching staff and students in Macao to understand the history, spirit and connotations of the national anthem, cultivate their patriotism as well as enhance their recognition of the country, in October 2018, the DSEJ held a lecture entitled “Arise! The national anthem of our country” for secondary school students, student union representatives and teaching staff. Mr. Wong Tin, an expert on the history of Sino-Japanese relations, was invited as the keynote speaker, and more than 600 people attended the lecture.



Organising the activity of “Introduction of the National Flag and the National Anthem”



The lecture of “Arise! The national anthem of our country”

Besides, in order to enhance the national flag, national emblem and national anthem education, the DSEJ, in accordance with the content of the *National Anthem Law*, learning characteristics of students of different education levels and needs of schools, invited professional consultants, teachers of Civic and Moral Education, History and General Studies of Macao primary and secondary education levels to form working groups and, on the basis of the teaching resources of the *National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem, Regional Flag and Regional Emblem* published in 2000, compile teaching resources with the editions for primary and secondary, the content includes understanding of the national flag, national emblem and national anthem, their history, spirit and connotations, the etiquette for national flag-raising ceremony as well as playing and singing the national anthem. The teaching resources also include the content of the regional flag and regional emblem.

In addition, through special subsidy, the Education Development Fund provided subsidy and technical support for schools that did not have the conditions to raise and display the national flag as well as hold the flag-raising ceremony. Schools were enabled to carry out educational activities, which are related to the national flag and national anthem, in schools. In the academic year 2017/2018, the Education Development Fund approved a total of 119 subsidy applications from 75 school units for the installation of the national flag, regional flag, school flag and flagpoles, as well as the purchase of the national flag, regional flag and school flag. The total subsidy amount was more than 3.5 million patacas.

In addition, through the “Flag Raiser Training Camp – Talking under the National Flag”, the DSEJ enabled young people to acquire the knowledge of the national flag and learn the etiquette for flag raising, enhance the patriotism of young people as well as cultivate their sense of responsibility and mission to the society. In 2018, a total of 303 young students from 30 schools participated in the activity.



The school holding the national flag-raising ceremony



Experience camp of “Talking under the National Flag”