



UAE National Anthem and Flag Observance Policy

Version	Document Title	Status	Author	Approved by	Date	Reviewed on	Next Review Date
0.1	UAE National Anthem and Flag Observance Policy	Final	Phase Leaders	Principal/Vice Principal	June 2026	June 2026	June 2027
Regional Director		Principal		Vice Principal			
Head of Foundation Stage		Head of Primary		Head of Secondary			

1. Scope

Newlands School is committed to promoting respect for the United Arab Emirates, its national identity, values and heritage. This policy outlines the school's procedures for the observance of the UAE National Anthem in accordance with the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) Standards for UAE National Anthem Observance.

The policy ensures that all members of the Newlands community participate respectfully and consistently in daily observance and during formal school events.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students
- Teaching and support staff
- School leaders
- Parents and carers attending school events
- Visitors, contractors and volunteers on site
- External guests attending school functions

3. Policy Statement

Newlands School will ensure that the UAE National Anthem is observed respectfully throughout the school year by:

- Playing the anthem once every operational school day.
- Playing the anthem at the commencement of all whole-school assemblies.
- Playing the anthem at the beginning of all formal whole-school events.
- Promoting understanding of the anthem's significance and the values it represents.
- Providing appropriate accommodations to ensure inclusive participation for all members of the school community.

4. Daily Observance Protocol

The UAE National Anthem will be played:

- **Every operational school day**
- **At 7:40 a.m.**
- **Via the school's public address (PA) system**

The selected time reflects the point at which the majority of students and staff are present on campus.

The anthem will be played only once during the school day, unless it also forms part of the opening of a formal whole-school event / school assembly.

Where exceptional circumstances such as emergency evacuation, lockdown, severe operational disruption or other safety concerns prevent the anthem from being played, the reason will be recorded by the designated person, and normal observance will resume at the earliest safe opportunity.

5. Assemblies

The UAE National Anthem will be played at the beginning of all assemblies, including:

- Weekly assemblies
- Phase assemblies where the entire phase is gathered
- Special assemblies
- Celebration assemblies
- Guest speaker assemblies

6. Whole-School Events

The UAE National Anthem will be played at the beginning of all formal school events, including but not limited to:

- UAE National Day
- Flag Day
- Commemoration Day
- International Day
- Graduation ceremonies
- Sports Day
- Prize Giving and Awards Ceremonies
- School performances
- Orientation events
- Parent information evenings where appropriate
- Whole-school showcases
- Any formal event representing the school community

The anthem will be played regardless of whether the event takes place:

- On campus
- At an external venue

- Virtually
- In a hybrid format

7. Expected Conduct

During the playing of the UAE National Anthem, all members of the school community are expected to:

- Stop all activities immediately.
- Stand respectfully where they are.
- Face the direction of the sound source or flag where appropriate.
- Remain silent throughout the performance.
- Listen attentively until the anthem has concluded.
- Resume normal activities only once the anthem has finished.

Staff members are responsible for modelling appropriate behaviour and ensuring students understand and follow these expectations.

Parents, visitors and contractors on site are also expected to observe the anthem respectfully.

8. Inclusion

Newlands School is committed to ensuring that every member of the community can participate with dignity.

Students and adults who are unable to stand due to disability, medical condition or mobility needs will be supported to participate respectfully from a seated or otherwise appropriate position.

Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure inclusion while maintaining the dignity of the individual.

No student will be separated from their peers during observance.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

Principal

The Principal will:

- Ensure implementation of this policy.
- Monitor compliance across the school.
- Ensure maintenance of the school's Observance Protocol.
- Ensure any exceptions are documented appropriately.

Senior Leadership Team

The Senior Leadership Team will:

- Monitor daily implementation.
- Ensure anthem observance during all applicable school events.
- Support staff in implementing the policy consistently.

Teaching Staff

Teachers will:

- Model respectful conduct.
- Supervise students during observance.
- Reinforce expectations and explain the significance of the anthem.
- Support inclusive participation.

Students

Students are expected to:

- Participate respectfully.
- Follow staff instructions.
- Demonstrate pride and respect for the UAE.

10. Communication

At the beginning of each academic year the school will communicate to students, parents and staff:

- The importance of the UAE National Anthem.
- Expectations for respectful conduct.
- Daily observance arrangements.
- The school's commitment to promoting UAE values and national identity.

Information will also be included in:

- Parent handbooks
- Student handbooks
- Staff induction materials
- Staff handbook
- New family orientation

11. Staff Induction

All new staff members will receive guidance on:

- The significance of the UAE National Anthem.
- Daily observance procedures.
- Expected conduct.
- Supervisory responsibilities.
- Inclusive practices.

This induction will take place within the first week of employment.

12. Monitoring and Compliance

The Principal and Senior Leadership Team will review implementation throughout the academic year.

The school will maintain records of:

- Daily observance arrangements.
- Staff induction.
- Annual communication with the school community.
- Any exceptional circumstances affecting observance.

This policy and the school's Observance Protocol will be made available to KHDA upon request.

Observance Protocol Summary

Requirement	Newlands School Procedure
Daily observance	Every operational school day
Time	7:40 a.m.
Rotational model	Year groups rotate through a shared assembly space on difference days. Each
Assemblies	Anthem played at the start of every assembly
Formal events	Anthem played at the beginning of all formal school events including National Day, International Day, graduations, Sports Day, awards, showcases and ceremonies
Conduct	Stand respectfully, remain silent and attentive until completion
Inclusion	Reasonable adjustments provided for students and adults with additional needs
Staff induction	Within first week of employment
Annual communication	Shared with students, staff and parents at the start of each academic year
Monitoring	Principal and Senior Leadership Team