

Dear parents and guardians,

Striving to Build a Society Based on Multicultural Coexistence

- Enabling Children to “Use Their Real Names at School” -

Here at the Osaka City Board of Education, we continue to promote educational efforts related to multicultural coexistence, through which children with a diverse array of values and cultural backgrounds are able to learn together, with the aim of fostering the development of children that possess the capacity and capability to reach a mutual understanding of the diversity of each other’s cultures, as they live life together, and as we strive to build a society in which multicultural coexistence becomes a reality.

Due to the advance of globalization, municipal kindergartens, elementary schools, junior high schools in the City of Osaka now serve children with cultural roots and connections to more than 50 countries or regions, such as the Korean Peninsula, China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Peru, and Brazil, among other countries.

Additionally, we are proactively engaged in fostering the growth of school environments in which children are able to “call to each other and refer to themselves using their real names.” Since an individual’s name is a representation of that individual’s identity, it is only natural to encourage them to use their real names.

On the other hand, it must be recognized that for such children that have newly arrived to Japan, children born to trans-national households, children that are living in Japan due to a variety of circumstances, and children that have obtained Japanese citizenship, such children possess a diverse array of ethnic backgrounds. From the standpoint of empowering such children so that they can develop heightened self-esteem, while enabling them to retain a connection to their mother tongue and their heritage culture, we believe that their “name that connects to their cultural roots” is a vital component.

Here at this City’s Board of Education, we will continue to engage in efforts to foster the development of children by encouraging them to use their real name (name that connects to their cultural roots) in order to help them establish their identities, and to allow them to experience a rich variety of encounters, with the aim of enabling such children to grow into individuals that are able to recognize the richness of diversity and that are capable of validating each other, and at the same time, we will engage in efforts to eliminate prejudice and discrimination that may arise when such children are using their real names (name that connects to their cultural roots).

We ask parents and guardians to provide us with their kind understanding regarding the intentions of these aforementioned efforts.

2026

Osaka City Board of Education