

# Air Quality Policy

**Approval:** SLT  
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. There are times of the year when we experience poor air quality in Bangkok. We make every effort to provide a safe environment for our students and have, in consequence, the following systems and procedures in place.

## 2. Monitoring and response

- 2.1. The air quality on campus is monitored on a minute-by-minute basis. This is done through a number of different channels. We have two IQAir AirVisual air quality monitoring stations in School, which send data directly to the internet. You can check this data live via the AirVisual app, which can be found on the App Store or at Google Play, or at the AirVisual website (**set to US AQI, not CN AQI**). If the data is unclear we also monitor readings from other nearby stations. On our campus, we monitor both outdoor and indoor air quality.
- 2.2. Although a range of pollutants are balanced in the official AQI reading, many people are currently most concerned about levels of PM2.5. The PM2.5 level is not the same as the AQI reading, but both are indicated in the AirVisual data.
- 2.3. Whilst we cannot control the quality of the air outside, we have taken steps to minimise adverse effects on those inside our buildings.
  - 2.3.1. Our HVAC systems are fitted with enhanced filters, which are very effective in removing PM2.5 particulate matter from the air which is taken into the building. This allows us to maintain appropriately low levels of CO<sub>2</sub> inside the building.
  - 2.3.2. We also run air purifiers where needed in our classrooms and Learning Studios any time the AQI becomes a cause for concern. Most of these purifiers have built-in PM2.5 monitors, which give real-time readings to staff, who can adjust settings if required.
  - 2.3.3. On the rare occasions when outside air quality worsens even further, we may close classroom doors for short periods to maintain the highest effectiveness of the purifiers in each space.
- 2.4. We follow the guidelines set out in the Appendix below, based on real-time data direct from our air quality machines.

## 3. Other

- 3.1 It is important to note that, aside from the immediate risks associated with acute conditions such as asthma, the levels of unhealthiness detailed in the Appendix are



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*cumulative*. Prolonged exposure to significantly elevated levels of PM2.5, for example, presents long-term health risks – but very short-term exposure, such as walking between buildings, or to the car, is not, in itself, likely to have significant impact on any but the most sensitive people, in either the short or the long term. Younger children are more sensitive to the effects of certain pollutants, so we are always more cautious with our Early Years students.

- 3.2 For ‘unusually sensitive\*’ children, parents are asked to obtain, and present to the School, an official medical certificate from a registered, practising medical doctor.
- 3.3 Students are, of course, free at any time to wear PM2.5-grade masks for further protection, both outside and indoors, if they wish.



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AQI		Immediate Health Effects	EY	Junior School	Senior School
Good	0-49	Little to no risk.		All outdoor activities proceed.	
Moderate	50-99	A small number of unusually sensitive individuals may see moderate health effects.		All outdoor activities proceed.	
			Students who are unusually sensitive to air pollution are monitored.		
Caution for sensitive people	100-134	General public not likely to be affected; people with lung disease, older adults and younger children at some risk from exposure.	Children remain inside for playtime.  They can walk to areas of the school such as soft play.	Break and lunch as normal. Sensitive students* are monitored closely, and may stay inside if required.  Outdoor lessons, events and activities go ahead but may be modified in Junior School to reduce breathing intensity.	
Unhealthy for sensitive people	135-149	General public may start to experience immediate effects. People with lung disease, older adults and younger children at some risk from prolonged exposure.	Windows and doors kept closed.  Activities indoors where practicable. No Swimming.  Children can walk to areas of the school such as soft play.	Windows and doors kept closed.  Sensitive students* are monitored carefully and excused from outdoor activity if symptoms occur.  Outdoor lessons and activities modified to lower breathing intensity. More rest periods included.  Maximum 60 mins outdoor exposure at one time (includes outdoor break before/after); longer events cancelled.	
Unhealthy for all	150-174	Everyone may begin to experience immediate health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more significant health effects.	Windows and doors kept closed. All outdoor activities moved indoors or cancelled.  In very specific circumstances, elite sports performers may continue some training, under lower-intensity conditions.		
Very unhealthy	175-199	Immediate health effects become more noticeable for many people, with members of sensitive groups at a significant risk of more serious health issues.	Windows and doors kept closed. All students remain inside their designated school building. Movement between buildings is not permitted until air quality improves. Junior School students eat in their classrooms.		
Extremely unhealthy	200+	Most people may experience significant immediate health effects.	Windows and doors closed. No activities outdoors.  School may be closed under some circumstances.		