WELLINGTON
COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
BANGKOK

Air Quality Policy

Approval:	SLT	**Level:**	Public
Writer:	Chris Nicholls	**Review Frequency:**	Two years
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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 three IQAir AirVisual air quality monitoring stations in School, two of 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_2 inside the building.
      2.3.2. We also run air purifiers 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 adjust settings if required.
      2.3.3. On the rare occasions when outside air quality worsens even further, we close classroom doors for short periods to maintain the highest effectiveness of the purifiers.
   2.4. We follow the guidelines set out in the Appendix below. Every time action has been taken, an email is sent home at the end of the day to explain.

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

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.

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Appendix: Levels of School Response

US AQI	Meaning	School Procedure
0-49: **good**	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.	• All outdoor activities proceed.
50-99: **moderate**	Air quality is acceptable; there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive* to air pollution.	• All outdoor activities proceed. • Students who are unusually sensitive* to air pollution are monitored.
100-149: **unhealthy for sensitive individuals**	Sensitive students may experience some health effects. Others are not likely to be affected.	• Early years students and all other sensitive students stay inside for most of the time, but *short* outdoor activities such as swimming may go ahead. • For other students, short outdoor activities such as breaks and PE lessons proceed. Longer and more intense activities are scaled back or moved indoors. • Sensitive* students are monitored carefully and are excused from outdoor activity if symptoms occur. • Windows and doors are closed.
150-174: **unhealthy**	Everyone may begin to experience some effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.	• Junior School (including Early Years) students remain indoors for all activities. • All sport/PE activities, and Junior School playtimes, moved indoors or cancelled. • Students may be outside (without exertion) for short periods. • Windows and doors are closed.
175-199: **unhealthy**	Everyone may begin to experience some effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.	• No activities outdoors. • Windows and doors closed. • School may be closed under some circumstances.
201-300: **very unhealthy**	Health alert: everyone may experience some health effects.	
301 upwards: **hazardous**	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.	

*Unusual sensitivity to air pollution should be evidenced by an official medical diagnosis from a doctor.

It is important to note that, aside from the immediate risks associated with acute conditions such as asthma, the levels of unhealthiness detailed here are **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 – on any particular day – 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.