



Air Quality Policy and Procedures

Policy Statement

At HHIS we recognise the importance of outdoor activities and prioritise the health and safety of everyone while outdoors. Poor air quality can present dangerous situations so we have developed guidelines to ensure students and staff are safe when active outside. HHIS has an AQI monitor on the school site which measures PM2.5 in mass concentration (ug/m³). The Air Quality Index (AQI) was designed by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and HHIS has aligned our procedures in line with the EPA and World Health Organisation guidelines.

Communication

The school office staff will monitor the air quality and inform all staff throughout the day. Monitoring and communication times will be 8.10, 9.30 and 11.30. Air quality will also be checked at 2.00.

Procedures

We make every effort to ensure we provide a safe environment for our students. Therefore we monitor the PM2.5 levels and have procedures in place for when the quality falls. The AQI monitor is checked regularly and informed decisions are made about the outdoor activities throughout the day. We also have air purifiers in the classrooms.

See chart on the next page

Air Quality Index (AQI)	PM2.5 (ug/m3)	US EPA and Health Implications	HHIS Response
Good 0 – 50	0 – 12.0	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action
Moderate 51 – 100	12.1 – 35.4	Air quality is acceptable; however, there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor activities may take place. • Monitor any students that may be sensitive. • Air purifiers on. • Doors and windows closed.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 101 – 150	35.5 – 55.4	Although the general public are not likely to be affected, sensitive people may experience some health effects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EY: limit outdoor activities to 20 minutes within 1 hour. • Avoid vigorous activity. • Sensitive students may be excused from PE. • Air purifiers on. • Doors and windows closed.
Unhealthy for all 151 – 200	55.5 – 150	Everyone may begin to experience some adverse health effects, and members of sensitive groups may experience more serious effects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EY and Primary students remain indoors. • Activities should be moved indoors where possible. • Secondary students may sit in the salas at break times. • Air purifiers on. • Doors and windows closed.
Very Unhealthy for all 201-300	150.5 – 250.4	This would trigger a health alert signifying that everyone may experience more serious health effects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No outdoor activities. • Air purifiers on • Windows and doors closed.
Hazardous 301 – 500	250.4 – 500.4	This would trigger a health alert signifying that everyone may experience more serious health effects.	

References

<https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>

<https://document.airnow.gov/air-quality-and-outdoor-guidance-for-schools.pdf>

“Air Quality Guide for PM2.5 is based on the US Environmental Protection Agency AQI Basics”

Appendix 1:

In the event that the air quality levels rise into the 'Unhealthy' band, the following applies:

Before School:

Students go straight to class. Staff members on duty at the gate direct students straight to class. Outdoor ECAs cancelled. Field Trips cancelled if necessary.

Breaktime:

All students remain in the canteen for the duration of their break time – supervised by all duty staff. No outdoor play.

Lunchtime:

EY2	EY2 Room	2 x Assistants from EY2 * When air is orange, EY2 children will play outside for 20 minutes and then inside EY2 classroom with 2 x EY2 Assistant
EY3	EY3 Room	EY Playground duty staff no 1 in EY3 classroom + 1 Assistant from EY3. * When air is orange, EY3 children will play outside for 20 minutes and then inside EY3 classroom with EY Playground duty staff and 1 x EY3 Assistant.
Year 1	Y1 Classroom	EY Playground duty staff no. 2 Sports Field and New Basketball Staff
Year 2		Y2 Teaching Assistant (take lunch after lunchtime)
Years 3-4	Own Classrooms	Supervised by Playground (Main) Staff - Monitor all rooms
Years 5-6	Own Classrooms	Supervised by Primary Playground Basketball Court Duty Staff - Monitor all rooms
Secondary	Canteen & Secondary Building (12:45-13:40) Lesson transition needed at 13.40 in prep for 13.45 start.	In the event of red air, Secondary Students must follow this arrangement: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12.45<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Y10-13 go to the canteen for lunch.○ Y7-9 go to the Secondary Meeting Room – Supervised by the field duty member of staff.• 1.10<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Y7-9 go to the canteen for lunch○ Y10-11 go the Secondary Meeting Room – Supervised by the field duty member of staff○ IB students go to the IB Room – Supervised by Julie Way Building Duty Staff. Normal duty.• No outdoor play – The library duty staff member to help ensure all students outside go inside. Secondary top floor will be additionally supported by KS4 Coordinator, IB Coordinator and Head of Secondary.

Afternoon Snack Time:

KS1/2 – remain in the canteen for the duration of their snack time – supervised by all duty staff

After School

Outdoor ECAs moved to the alternative venue as mentioned on the termly ECA document.