



Air Quality Policy

Purpose

The British International School takes the issue of air pollution very seriously. The purpose of this Air Quality Policy is to ensure the well-being of all our students and members of our school community on a daily basis.

The guidelines in this policy are taken from a number of sources, but primarily from the official advice from the United States government, acknowledged leaders in this area.

This policy is updated as of August 2013 and will continue to be reviewed as further guidance is received from health authorities.

Daily action to monitor air quality

Air Quality readings will be taken at 7.30am, 9.30am, 11.30am and 2.30pm on each school day. Readings are taken for AQI (Air Quality Index) and PM 2.5 (the indicator for the most harmful particles).

The readings will be taken by a member of the administration team. Decisions regarding appropriate actions are taken by the Associate Principal – Director of Student Well-being. In his or her absence this responsibility passes to the Senior Nurse who will liaise directly with the Principal.

The British International School will use three readings from the following websites and smartphone apps:

- The Shanghai Environmental Monitoring Centre: www.semc.gov.cn/aqi/home/English.aspx
- The Shanghai US Consulate Monitoring Station (to check for consistency with Chinese monitoring stations): www.stateair.net/web/post/1/4.html
- The Air Quality China app (known as “the Green Cloud app”) which provides a slightly more local reading

The School will then use the AIRNow website to give an overall AQI reading aggregated from the three websites: www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=resources.conc_aqi_calc

Action taken after readings

The following appropriate measures will be taken with regard to outside activities due to take place. The readings are communicated to all staff and displayed in key areas around the school.

AQI Reading	Measure to be taken
0-150	No action required. However, at the 101-150 level there is awareness that AQI conditions are changing so the situation will be monitored more closely with more regular checks. At the 101-150 level students with respiratory problems will have their exertion levels monitored by the member of staff responsible for them.
151-200	Students are still allowed outside, but levels of heavy exertion and outdoor exposure will be limited by the member of staff responsible for the class or the staff member on duty. Ball and running games will be prohibited during break times. CCAs that normally have a high exertion level will be adjusted, for example by moving the practice indoors, changing the time or lowering exertion levels (e.g. by focusing on skills development rather than stamina training). Any students that are on our list as having respiratory problems will be kept inside.
Above 200	All outside activities will be cancelled.



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New information on Air Quality in China is becoming available all of the time. As such, our policy is subject to change to ensure that we are protecting our students in the most appropriate manner.

Children with specific health related issues

Parents should please keep the school informed of any medical conditions which means their child should be added to the list of students to be monitored at the 101-150 level and kept inside at the 151-200 level.

Co-Curricular Activities

CCAs will not be cancelled. Alternative activities will be put in place and students will still travel home on their expected CCA bus.

Educational Visits

Our standard air quality reading will be taken prior to any school educational visit. If the reading is over 200 the member of staff responsible for the visit will make the decision to postpone the trip. The member of staff responsible will make the necessary arrangements and communicate directly with parents of the students on the visit. In the case of residential visits the member of staff responsible for the visit will use the Green Cloud app or the SEMC website to take air quality readings at the start of the day to decide if outdoor activities need to be modified or postponed.

Weekend and tournament Sports Fixtures

Students will always travel to fixtures regardless of the reading prior to setting off. When air quality is poor, alternative arrangements will often be planned by the organisers.

At the meeting of coaching staff at the venue, the British International School Sports coach will take a reading from the Green Cloud App to determine whether the fixture should be modified or postponed. If this decision differs from other schools' decisions then the school policy must be followed.

Contact

If you have any queries regarding Air Quality please contact the Associate Principal – Director of Student Well-being, Andrew Howard, on a-howard@naispudong.com