

AIR QUALITY POLICY

Version September 2018

There are times of the year when we experience poor air quality in Beijing and we know this is an issue of importance for many of our parents. At the British School of Beijing, Sanlitun, we try our best to ensure we provide a safe environment for our children to learn in and so we have in place the following guidelines:

- All pupils across Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 stay indoors should the AQI rise above 200 (PM2.5).
- We use the US Embassy AQI reading.
- PE lessons for all pupils will be taught indoors if the AQI rises above 200 (PM2.5).
- If the AQI rises above 300 (PM2.5) indoor PE lessons will be restricted to low level exercise.
- Pupils of all ages with respiratory problems or health issues affected by poor air quality may stay indoors if the AQI is above 150. Parents should notify the school nurse of such issues (with a doctor's note), who in turn should notify the class teacher.
- When the AQI is above 100 all external windows and doors will be closed.
- All areas of the school have air purifiers and these are kept on at all times and when the AQI level is above 100, on the highest setting.
- Notices will be placed at the main entrance of each campus alerting children, parents, staff and guests as to the AQI level.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE

- All class teachers are responsible for ensuring the windows and doors to their classroom are closed during times of poor air quality.
- A member of the admin team is responsible for reporting the most recent AQI reading to staff on an hourly basis via email.
- Front desk is responsible for updating the notices at the main entrance of each campus.
- Email notification is sent to all staff if it is indoor break.
- The security guards and cleaners are responsible for ensuring external doors and windows are closed in shared areas of the building; main entrance, hall, corridors, staff room, meeting room.
- Admin staff are responsible for closing the windows and doors to their own offices.
- The Principal is responsible for updating the policy according to new measures being taken.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

According to the latest policy in place by the Beijing Government as well as the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education, if the air quality is forecast to be at high level of pollution for three consecutive days then all schools should close¹. Schools will be alerted to this by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education (BEC) and will notify parents via the school website, by email and by SMS. If parents do not receive any communication, it is because the school has not been contacted by the BEC and therefore will remain open. We do of course fully understand that parents may wish to keep their children at home during high levels of pollution. It is also really important that the school has the most up to date information regarding parent contact numbers and emails so that timely alerts about any school closures can be issued.

MASKS

Children and staff are welcome to wear masks during breaktimes if preferred. Teaching staff will remind children to put masks on if they have them, but we also strongly encourage the children to be responsible for looking after their mask and making sure they wear it at breaktimes and at home time.

Parents, staff and guests are welcome to purchase Vogmasks from our Uniform Shop. These are sold in four sizes (see below) and cost RMB180 each.

- Age 0 to 2
- Age 3 to 7
- Age 8 to 12
- Adult

Please note, the school does not formally endorse Vogmask above any other brand of face mask.

AIR PURIFIERS

2012-2013: Unit air purifier in every classroom in the Early Years and Primary campuses. (Blueair/IQ air/ Electrolux)

¹ Take the latest policy released by Beijing Municipal Commission of Education as reference. www.bjedu.gov.cn

IQ Air - these are positioned in our larger shared areas, such as the school halls, Primary Campus foyer and gymnasium. These purifiers feature HyperHEPA filtration systems and cover up to 80 square metres.

BROAD air purifiers - these are positioned in our large shared areas and school offices. The large systems cover up to 80 square metres and have four key functions: Electrostatic Dust Cleaning, Electrostatic Bacteria Killing, Active Carbon Detoxification and Carbon Dioxide Monitoring (BROAD patented).

Electrolux Oxygen Ultra with Plasma Wave - these are placed in each classroom and cover up to 60 square metres. They consist of a three stage filtration process: carbon filters to reduce powerful odors, a HEPA filter to capture airborne pollutants and PlasmaWave™ to neutralise and freshen air.

Filters are changed by our maintenance team according to the manufacturers recommendation but also according to indicators on the specific appliances.

2013-date:

- We outsourced Pureliving company to provide an air purifier solution so they introduced ceiling-mounted air filters and air curtains to school.
- We have installed high-specification ceiling-mounted Daikin brand air filters in all of our classrooms, canteen, gym, etc.
- School maintenance staff test the indoor air quality 3 times per week.

2016-date:

- Replaced outdoor facing doors to those with a tight seal.
- Built second door at the key exit points of the buildings to essentially create an indoor porch to offer an additional layer of protection.
- Installed positive pressure machines at exit door points to push polluted air away from the building as doors open and close.

ACTIVITIES DURING INDOOR BREAKS AND LUNCHTIMES

As much as possible we want children to remain motivated and enthused whilst indoors and we are able to provide various options for the children during indoor breaks and lunchtimes.

Library – San Building

The Library is conveniently placed near the playground allowing children to spend time sharing a book with friends. Pupils who stay indoors when the AQI is over 150 but less than 200 are able to use the Library under the supervision of the Librarian.



Learning Lounges – San Building

The Learning Lounges on the 2nd and 3rd floor offer additional space outside of the classrooms where children can relax with a book, play board games and chat with their friends. These are also great spaces for children to read with their teaching assistants and teachers.

Urban Sports Centre – San Building

Our Urban Sports Centre, located in the basement of the school enables pupils to burn off some energy when the poor weather restricts outdoor play. For health and safety purposes it is not possible for all of the children to use the Urban Sports Centre during breaktimes. Therefore we allocate times for all our classes to visit the Urban Sports Centre throughout the day ensuring all pupils are able to use the space to maximum benefit. With a climbing and traversing wall, table tennis, exercise bikes and a ball pool, there are plenty of activities for all children to participate in.

Library - Li Building

Pupils are also able to sit with friends in the library and look through all the wonderful books that we have at our Li Building, encouraging children to develop a love of reading from an early age. Early Years children, who stay indoors when the AQI is between 150-200, due to medical reasons, are placed with another class who are not having their break at that time.

Use of DVDs during indoor breaks

As much as possible we aim to limit the use of DVDs during indoor breaktimes and we would much rather the children engage in an activity of a creative or active nature. There are times however when children require some 'down time', especially when they have been involved in active learning during lesson time. Therefore with the support and generosity of the Parents Association, we have purchased educational DVDs such as Blue Planet, Walking with Dinosaurs, Blue Peter, Newsround etc., which will be used on a restricted basis with the children. DVDs will always be chosen so they are relevant to the specific age range.