



Rugby School
THAILAND

Air Quality Policy

Person(s) Responsible: Directors of Sport (Senior and Prep)

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The health, safety and well-being of young people are of paramount importance to all the adults who work at Rugby School Thailand. Children have the right to protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture, sexual orientation, or disability. They have a right to be safe in our school. Members of staff in the school have a legal and moral obligation to safeguard and promote the welfare of the pupils, taking all reasonable steps to protect them from harm whether from physical injury, abuse, neglect, emotional harm or from anything that interferes with their general development.

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Rugby School Thailand Air Quality Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide Rugby School Thailand (RST) staff, pupils and parents with clear guidelines and processes on how we can demonstrate that we are committed to minimizing the impact of air pollution on the school community in relation to an Air Quality Index provided by the Air Visual App.

Rationale

This document will look to ensure that through a transparent and systematic process of intervention RST limits the impact of air pollution on the health, well-being and learning environment of our students and community.

Aims

The aim of this Air Pollution Policy is to educate and inform the RST community that pollution is a problem and identify ways in which we can look at solutions to safeguard our students whilst ensuring that there is limited impact on their right to learn in a safe and healthy environment.

Background

Poor air quality due to industrial and domestic pollution is a major cause for concern in most countries of the World causing premature deaths from particulates and adding to global warming gases through the burning of fossil fuels and organic matter.

In the immediate vicinity RST has industrial sites burning fuels, farmers seasonally burning agricultural stubble and the daily traffic associated with large urban cities nearby. This can significantly change the Air Quality around RST on a daily and even hourly basis.

The School uses Air Visual monitors on site and the Air Visual App on phones which gives real-time readings from the monitors and shows readings for other monitors nearby. The Air Visual website states: *"AQI, or Air Quality Index, is a system for translating sometimes confusing or unintuitive pollutant concentration measurements, into one easy-to-understand scale to clearly represent the health risk posed by ambient air pollution. The index formula usually considers up to 6 main pollutants (PM2.5, PM10, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and ground level ozone), and calculates the respective health risk (or AQI number) for each one at any given time. The overall AQI number at a given moment is dictated by the "riskiest" pollutant, with the highest AQI number.*

The index ranges from 0 to 500, where high index values indicate higher levels of air pollution and higher potential for adverse health effects. Any value larger than 300, for example, is considered to be hazardous, while an AQI value of 0-50, on the other hand, represents good air quality."

Air pollution in the area can be categorised as moderate (see table below) through large parts of the year and go as high as poor or even unhealthy at times. The following steps have been put in place to react if the AQI reaches unacceptable levels.

Criteria/Procedures

Air purifiers are (will be in future) installed in classrooms to ensure the air quality inside is good.

Daily Pollution Monitoring

1. During times of poor air quality the Directors of Sport in the Senior and Prep School monitor and review the AQI readings at - 7.30am / 10am / 1pm / 3.30pm / 4.30pm
2. At these times Directors of Sport will communicate only should there be a change to activities/procedures
3. See table below for detailed procedures
4. If AQI readings are above 150 Sports Events (Fixtures) will be cancelled
5. Decisions on weekend fixtures/practices will be taken by 5pm on the Friday before.

Communication

1. Directors of Sport will announce any change in daily procedures to the School community using the Lightning and AQI WhatsApp group (SLT members) and their respective School staff body.
2. If the decision impacts on fixtures or pick-up times, parents will be informed by the iSAMS SMS System/email/SchoolsBuddy or whichever is appropriate
3. The Sports Departments will contact other Schools in respect of fixtures and endeavour to make a decision in plenty of time to allow parents to plan accordingly.
4. Trips/activities will refer to the AQI procedures table below so that measures can be taken should the air quality in the area be too poor to allow for the activity to continue.

Rugby School Air Quality Procedures

AQI readings are taken from the AirVisual app, with the school having an on-site reading.

AQI Readings	Description	Impact on Outdoor Activities	Impact on Sports, PE & Swimming
0 – 50	GOOD	Normal Activities	Normal Activities
51 – 80	MILD	Normal Activities	Normal Activities
81 – 125	MODERATE	Normal Activities Pre-Prep – Less strenuous activity Special consideration for those with asthma and respiratory difficulties	Modified lessons for certain age groups of children including Pre-Prep
126 – 150	MODERATE	Pre-Prep – 30 minutes outdoors activity Prep & Senior - Break times outdoors Special consideration for those with asthma and respiratory difficulties	Modified lessons for Pre Prep age groups
151 – 175	POOR	Pre-Prep Indoors Prep & Senior - Break times outdoors with no ball games / option to be in classrooms. Special consideration for those with asthma and respiratory difficulties	Modified lessons to reduce prolonged exertion
176 – 200	UNHEALTHY	Playground and CGA closed. Indoor activities / lessons for everyone. AQI reviewed at set times throughout the day	Modified indoor lessons

200 +	VERY UNHEALTHY	All pupils Indoors AQI reviewed at set times throughout the day	Low impact indoor lessons
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Guidelines for PE & Sport Activities

	0 – 50 GOOD	51 – 80 MILD	81 – 125 UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	126 – 150 UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	151- 175 POOR	175 – 200 UNHEALTHY	201 – 300 VERY UNHEALTHY
			Special consideration for those with asthma and respiratory difficulties		Those with asthma and respiratory difficulties should not be outside		
Activity	No restrictions	No restrictions	Pre-Prep-Modified / Low intensity outdoor activities	Prep & Senior Schools Modified / Low intensity outdoor activities	Pre Prep - No outdoors activities Prep & Senior - Modified lessons to reduce prolonged exertion	Prep & Senior - No Outdoor Activities	Every opportunity will be taken to restrict outdoor exposure to a minimum
Break and lunch times	No restrictions	No restrictions	Children with asthma or other respiratory problems should be encouraged to play indoor	Pre-Prep – 30 minutes outdoors activity Prep & Senior - Break times outdoors	Prep & Senior - Break times outdoors with no ball games / option to be in classrooms.	Playground and CGA closed. Indoor activities / lessons for everyone.	Every opportunity will be taken to restrict outdoor exposure to a minimum
PE & Swimming lessons (80 mins)	No restrictions	No restrictions	Restricted / amended programme for those with asthma or other respiratory problems	Restricted / amended programme for those with asthma or other respiratory problems	Prep & Senior - Modified lessons to reduce prolonged exertion	Not suitable for any child who complains of difficulty breathing, or who has asthma or other respiratory problems. Where possible, swimming becomes a PE lesson indoors.	Every opportunity will be taken to restrict outdoor exposure to a minimum
Games (Competitive training)	No restrictions	Exceptionally sensitive individuals should limit intense activities	Exceptionally sensitive individuals should limit intense activities	Exceptionally sensitive individuals should limit intense activities	Prep & Senior - Modified lessons to reduce prolonged exertion	Not suitable for any child who complains of difficulty breathing, or who has asthma or other respiratory problems. Where possible, Games becomes an	Every opportunity will be taken to restrict outdoor exposure to a minimum



Long-term Aims

Through the School body the following actions will be carried to benefit the wider community.

1. Education:

Distribution of poster & leaflets	Distributed poster & leaflets that carry the message about the bad effects of environmental pollution.
Arranging community / parents meeting	Arranging community / parent meeting in order to gain the participation of local people, civil society, local administration, journalists , teachers, guardians and students.
Campaigning on cleanliness	Arranging a cleanliness campaigning to be aware of the local people and motivate them to keep their environment clean e.g. Crop burning. The bigger picture.
PSHE Programme	Deliver pollution awareness sessions at all key stages.

2. Expert advice:

- Seeking expert advice (Air Quality Consultant) who can be part of a task group leading pollution change in school and beyond.
- Information days for the community with various Environmental experts and health professionals.
- RST pollution task force that will drive change and solutions at school.

3. Contribute to the macro effort in Thailand:

- Be a thoughtful leader in Thailand, working with other local International schools in a pollution consortium to tackle the problem,
- Sharing good practice as educational leaders to make change and arrange community meetings of local people, civil society, local administration, journalists, teachers' guardians and students.
- Develop a pollution campaign.