



## AIS Pollution and Fine Dust Policy

### Policy Aims

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines that ensure students, teachers, parents, and visitors to AIS are as safe as possible at school.

### Rationale

The health and safety of students, teachers, parents, and visitors to AIS is of the highest priority. AIS should take every precaution to ensure the school environment is as safe as possible.

### Background and Air Quality Index

South Korea is susceptible to the effects of the industrialization of China as well as its own pollution. Prevailing winds from deserts in Mongolia and China often bring pollution in what is referred to as 'Yellow Dust' and 'Fine Dust'. This dust is particularly prevalent in spring, but can appear throughout the year. The dust itself carries differing levels of particles which can be hazardous and, in some cases, dangerous to certain people in the population. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends checking the *Ultra-Fine Dust* in every school. In response South Korea changed their air pollution policy to consider both *Fine Dust* (Particulate Matter [PM] below 10 micrometers in diameter [PM<sub>10</sub>]) and *Ultra-Fine Dust* (PM below 2.5 micrometers in diameter [PM<sub>2.5</sub>]).

The government of South Korea and World Health Organization (WHO) recommends monitoring the Air Quality Index of the ultra-fine dust (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) - that is how many micrograms are present in a cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ).

### Measuring Fine Dust and Ultra-Fine Dust at AIS

AIS has invested in a device to measure both fine dust and ultra-fine dust. It is located outside the main entrance to the school.

The school nurse regularly checks the levels to determine whether the students can be outside before school, at break times or for PE and makes timely announcements to the school. If the nurse is absent, the responsibility is taken by the person responsible for Student Affairs.

The tables below show index points for fine-particle levels and action as AIS. We have researched international procedures and found those of the UK most comprehensive as the Department for the Environment has an Air Information Service. This is led by an expert [Committee of the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants](#), including professionals such as professors in Environmental Health and Toxicology and Paediatric Respiratory and Environmental Medicine. We used to follow World Health Organisation Guidance however this has become dated. We have also followed Korean Government advice however this is less expert driven and heavily influenced by the political climate in Seoul.

### AQI Criteria for *Fine Dust* and AIS Actions

Good	Moderate	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Very Unhealthy
0 ~ 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	51 ~ 75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	76 ~ 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	>101 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Students can go outside		Students with lung conditions stay inside. PE lessons inside	Students remain inside Students arriving at school will wash their hands

### AQI Criteria for *Ultra-Fine Dust* and AIS Actions

Good	Moderate	High	Very High
0 ~ 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	36 ~ 53 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	54 ~ 70 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	>71 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Students can go outside		Students with lung conditions stay inside. PE lessons inside	Students remain inside Students arriving at school will wash their hands

## References

### Air Information Service Resources

Guidance: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/air-pollution/daqi?view=more-info&pollutant=pm25#pollutant>

Committee of the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/committee-on-the-medical-effects-of-air-pollutants-comeap>

### Mobile AQI Measuring App

Air Korea (우리동네 대기정보) - The Korean National Weather Service AQI App (Korean Only)

- Google play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=or.kr.airkorea.dq&hl=ko>

- iTunes app: <https://itunes.apple.com/kr/app/id873915685?mt=8>

*Please note, these are local readings not specific to the exact location of AIS*

### AQI Measuring Website

Air Korea The Korean National Weather Service website (Korean and English)

<https://www.airkorea.or.kr/web> [https://www.airkorea.or.kr/eng/currentAirQuality?pMENU\\_NO=68](https://www.airkorea.or.kr/eng/currentAirQuality?pMENU_NO=68)

### World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality guidelines

[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/69477/WHO\\_SDE\\_PHE\\_OEH\\_06.02\\_eng.pdf;jsessionid=4C3969ABB68C4F1437910E3408EEEEB9?sequence=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/69477/WHO_SDE_PHE_OEH_06.02_eng.pdf;jsessionid=4C3969ABB68C4F1437910E3408EEEEB9?sequence=1)

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