



WEATHER AND TEMPERATURE

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| Policy Name | Weather and Temperature |
| Policy Version Number | V1 |
| Date of Validation | September 2025 |
| Date of Review | September 2026 |



Revision History

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Abbreviations & Definitions

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Responsibilities

| Role | Responsibilities |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Clinic Team | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monitor official Heat Index and weather alerts (NCEMA / NCM).Advise SLT on required restrictions.Treat and record cases of heat-related illness.Provide annual staff training on recognising heat stress. |
| Senior Leadership Team (SLT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Approve cancellations or restrictions to outdoor activities.Communicate final decisions to staff and parents.Ensure overall compliance with ADEK requirements. |
| Teachers & Duty Staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Enforce “No hat, no play.”Monitor hydration and encourage water breaks.Supervise outdoor play and PE in line with thresholds.Report any student showing symptoms immediately to the clinic. |
| Operations Team | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure shaded areas and water points are functional.Maintain safe outdoor environments (playgrounds, fields).Enforce contractor compliance with the ADPHC midday break rule. |
| Director of Sport | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Apply restrictions, cancellations or location change to PE, training, and fixtures.Decide on postponement of inter-school activities due to weather (not only heat, also storms, dust, rain etc).Liaise with clinic for player safety. |
| EAP Coordinator | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicate location changes or cancellations to parents via the NAS App. |
| Parents | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure children bring hats, water bottles, and apply sunscreen.Support compliance with school weather safety rules. |
| Students | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wear hats and bring water bottles.Follow staff guidance during hot weather.Inform staff immediately if feeling unwell. |

Purpose

This SOP protects the NAS Abu Dhabi school community from the health effects of adverse weather conditions. It sets out clear guidance for clinic staff, teachers, and supervisors on managing heat and other weather risks, in line with Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) and Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre (ADPHC) requirements.

Aim

To provide advice and control measures that safeguard students, staff, visitors, and contractors during adverse weather, particularly high heat, humidity, and dust, and to ensure consistent, evidence-based decisions for outdoor activity.

Scope

Applies to:

- Students (FS1-Year 13)
- Staff
- Visitors and parents
- Contractors (with specific rules for outdoor work)

Monitoring

Heat Index (combining temperature + humidity) is monitored by the school clinic using official UAE sources (NCEMA, National Centre of Meteorology).

- Readings checked at scheduled times (e.g. 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM, or more frequently in extreme heat).

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- Clinic advises Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of restrictions. SLT communicates changes to staff and parents.
- ADEK Buildings & Facilities Policy requires shading for outdoor spaces and safe access to drinking water.

Sandstorms or Heavy Winds

The Operations Team, in coordination with the Senior Leadership Team, will assess the severity of sandstorms or high wind conditions and determine the appropriate safety measures. During periods of strong winds with significant sand or dust in the air, all outdoor activities, including breaks, playtimes, lunchtimes, and PE lessons, will be suspended, and students will remain indoors in designated safe areas.

Students with respiratory conditions, such as asthma, must be closely monitored even during minor dust events, and any child showing signs of discomfort will be escorted indoors and referred to the school clinic if required.

- Severity Level – Major: Gusts of 50–75 km/h with sandstorms reducing visibility to less than 100 meters. All students remain indoors until conditions improve.
- Severity Level – Catastrophic: Gusts above 75 km/h with visibility reduced to less than 30 meters. The entire school will activate full indoor safety procedures, with strict prohibition of outdoor movement until clearance is given by the Operations and Senior Leadership Teams.

Air Quality

Air quality will be monitored on days when conditions suggest it may be a concern, such as during sandstorms, haze, or unusually high levels of vehicle emissions. The school will use the official UAE Air Quality Index (AQI) published by the [Ministry of Climate Change and Environment](#) (MOCCAE) or the MOCCAE mobile application, with Khadeejah School Air Quality Station serving as the main reference point for Abu Dhabi readings.

The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) also provides real-time AQI data and advisories, which will be considered when making decisions.

The Health and Safety Team, together with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), will take a sensible and proportionate approach when determining restrictions, based on:

- The recorded AQI level and pollutant category (Good, Moderate, Unhealthy, Hazardous).
- The age of students, with younger children (FS–Primary) considered more vulnerable.
- The nature of the activity, with strenuous outdoor activities such as PE, swimming, and competitive sports restricted earlier than light outdoor play.
- The needs of sensitive individuals (students and staff with asthma, other respiratory or cardiac conditions, diabetes, pregnancy, or higher innate susceptibility).

General responses may include:

- Good to Moderate AQI (0–100): Outdoor activities proceed as normal.
- Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101–150): Sensitive students remain indoors; all others allowed light outdoor activity with supervision.
- Unhealthy (151–200): All strenuous outdoor activities suspended; general play limited and closely supervised; sensitive students remain indoors.
- Very Unhealthy to Hazardous (201+): All outdoor activities cancelled; full indoor breaks for all year groups.

The school clinic will advise on AQI readings at set times during the school day. The SLT

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will make the final decision on whether to restrict or cancel outdoor activities.

Air Quality Index (AQI) Categories – Based on IQAir Standards

| Category | AQI Range | Colour Code | Health Implications | Recommended School Actions |
|---|-----------|--|--|---|
| Good | 0–50 | ■ Green | Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk. | Outdoor activities proceed as normal. |
| Moderate | 51–100 | ■ Yellow | Air quality is acceptable; however, there may be a concern for sensitive individuals (e.g., asthmatic students). | Proceed with outdoor activities but monitor sensitive groups. Ensure medication (e.g., inhalers) is accessible. |
| Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG) | 101–150 | ■ Orange | Sensitive individuals may experience health effects; general public unlikely to be affected. | Limit strenuous outdoor activity for sensitive students. Consider indoor alternatives for PE or EAP. |
| Unhealthy | 151–200 | ■ Red | Everyone may begin to experience health effects; sensitive groups may experience more serious effects. | Suspend outdoor activities. Move PE/EAP sessions indoors. Keep students indoors during breaks. |
| Very Unhealthy | 201–300 | ■ Purple | Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects. | Cancel all outdoor activities. Keep all students and staff indoors with doors/windows closed. Use air purifiers if available. |
| Hazardous | 301–500 | ■ Dark Purple / Maroon | Emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected. | Lockdown-style air quality precautions. No outdoor movement. Maintain indoor air quality and monitor updates from ADEK/authorities. |

Environmental Conditions Action Matrix

(Aligned with ADEK, NCEMA/NCM, MOCCAE/EAD, ADPHC guidelines)

| Condition | Level / Range (HI = Temperature + Humidity) | Implications | Restrictions / School Actions |
|-------------|---|------------------------|---|
| Comfortable | < 33 °C HI | Comfortable conditions | Normal outdoor activities. Hats & water encouraged. Teachers to remind hydration. |

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| Condition | Level / Range (HI = Temperature + Humidity) | Implications | Restrictions / School Actions |
|-----------------|---|---|---|
| Caution | 34–36 °C HI OR Humidity ≥ 60% | Risk of dehydration/heat stress in sensitive groups | Outdoor play in shaded areas only. "No hat, no play." Frequent water breaks (every 10–15 min). Close monitoring of sensitive students (asthma, obesity, medical conditions). Final decision always rests with the school nurse, who considers all factors (air quality, humidity, temperature, and real feel). |
| Extreme Caution | 37–39 °C HI OR Humidity ≥ 70% | High risk of heat illness | Time outdoors restricted: - FS-Y1 ≤ 10 min - Primary ≤ 15 min - Secondary ≤ 20 min. No ball games/running. Hydration mandatory. Sensitive students remain indoors. Final nurse decision applies. |
| Danger | 40–42 °C HI OR Humidity ≥ 75% | Very high risk of heat stroke/illness | Outdoor activities suspended. All students remain indoors. Only essential transitions allowed (bus drop-off/pick-up). Extra water stations accessible. Final nurse decision applies. |
| Extreme Danger | > 43 °C HI | Imminent risk of heat stroke | School-wide restriction on all outdoor activities. Bus arrival/departure supervised under shaded areas only. Indoor PE and activities implemented. ADEK notification if extreme conditions persist. Final nurse decision applies. |

Decision-Making Authority

While this table provides general guidance on outdoor activity restrictions based on temperature, humidity, and heat index, the final decision always rests with the school nurse (or designated Health & Safety Officer). The nurse considers all contributing factors, including air quality, humidity levels, temperature, real feel, student health conditions, and overall environmental safety, before confirming whether outdoor play or activities may proceed. This ensures that decisions are not based solely on numerical thresholds, but on a holistic risk assessment prioritising the wellbeing of students and staff.

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|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Air Quality Index (AQI) | 0–50 (Green) | Good | No restrictions. Outdoor activities proceed. |
| | 51–100 (Yellow) | Moderate | Acceptable for most, but mild risk for sensitive groups |
| | 101–150 (Orange) | Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups | May affect students with asthma/respiratory issues |
| | 151–200 (Red) | Unhealthy | Possible symptoms in wider student population |
| | 201–300 (Purple) | Very Unhealthy | Health alert – serious effects for all |
| | 301–500 (Maroon) | Hazardous | Emergency health risk for all |
| | Minor | Blowing dust but visibility >100m | Sensitive students monitored. Outdoor activity permitted with caution. |
| Sandstorms / Heavy Winds | Major (gusts 50–75 km/h; visibility <100m) | Reduced visibility, unsafe air | All breaks/playtimes indoors. No outdoor PE. Sensitive students closely monitored. |
| | Catastrophic (gusts >75 km/h; visibility <30m) | Severe hazard | All outdoor activities cancelled. Full indoor restriction. No outdoor movement until cleared by SLT/Operations. |

Rain / Flooding

The school will take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety and wellbeing of

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students during periods of heavy rain or flooding. Outdoor playtimes, lunchtimes, PE lessons, and other activities will be relocated indoors if surfaces are wet, slippery, or unsafe.

The Operations Team will monitor drainage and access routes to ensure they remain safe and free from standing water. At dismissal times, additional staff supervision will be provided to help students exit the school grounds safely and to prevent congestion in areas affected by water accumulation. Where flooding or severe rain creates a significant hazard, the Senior Leadership Team may temporarily restrict access to outdoor areas or adjust dismissal procedures until conditions improve.

Fog At School

On days when damp or heavy fog reduces visibility, students will go directly to classrooms on arrival rather than waiting outside. The school administration will excuse late arrivals caused by traffic delays during adverse weather. If fog coincides with assessment periods, no assessments will begin before 9:00 am to ensure student safety and wellbeing.

Bus Journeys

Bus monitors must evaluate conditions before departure in consultation with the bus driver and the Global Wings supervisor. If visibility is poor, journeys should be delayed until conditions improve. During travel, monitors must keep the school informed of progress and any schedule changes. Under no circumstances should buses enter major highways when visibility is dangerously reduced. If already en route, buses should pull over to a safe location, with all warning lights and stop signs deployed, until it is safe to continue. **All safety protocols must be strictly followed.**

Severity Levels

- **Major Fog:** Visibility reduced to less than 100 meters – buses may be delayed, and outdoor school movement restricted.
- **Catastrophic Fog:** Visibility reduced to less than 30 meters – all outdoor movement suspended; buses must remain stationary in a safe location until conditions improve.

Protective Measures

- “No hat, no play” strictly enforced.
- Free drinking water must be accessible near outdoor spaces ([ADEK Buildings & Facilities Policy](#)).
- Outdoor shaded structures used wherever possible.
- Students with medical conditions (e.g. asthma, sickle cell, frequent nosebleeds) restricted earlier than peers.
- PE staff and duty teachers to monitor hydration and recognise signs of heat stress.

Squads, After-School Activities, and #MEtime Enrichment

- Extracurricular clubs and sports squads (including after-school fixtures, squads, and morning #MEtime enrichment activities) are outside of core school hours and not mandatory.
- These activities must do not follow the same heat index thresholds and restrictions as listed above.

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- If activities are outdoors during hot conditions, the clinic and Director of Sport may cancel, relocate, or shorten sessions.
- Parents are informed of activity locations upfront at sign-up, ensuring they are aware of whether the activity is scheduled indoors or outdoors.
- Any weather-related cancellations will be communicated to parents via the NAS App and/or direct message from the activity organiser.

Contractors – Midday Break Rule

- Contractors and third-party staff must comply with [ADPHC “Safety in Heat” Programme](#).
- Outdoor work is prohibited between 12:30 PM and 3:00 PM from 15 June – 15 September.
- This rule applies only to contractors and workers, not students.

Feedback and Review:

- This SOP is reviewed annually before the hot season.
- Adjustments made if ADEK or NCEMA update requirements.
- Staff trained yearly on signs of heat stress and weather-related illness.

Approved and revised by:

Liam Cullinan, Principal
01.09.2025

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