

ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

Policy Owner	Operations Manager
Approved by	Ms Sapna Changrani (Head of School)
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Next Review Due	July 2027
Circulation	All Staff, Students, Parents; School Website; KHDA Inspection File

1. PURPOSE

This policy is intended to ensure that staff and students stay safe during hot and severe weather conditions. Safety is important to protect students and staff from heat exhaustion, dehydration, skin damage, and other weather-related harm. The school works together with staff, students, and parents to achieve this goal.

2. LOCAL WEATHER CONTEXT

The region has a hot desert climate with two distinct seasons — winter and summer. Summer begins around the last week of April and ends around the first week of October, with temperatures remaining above 35°C during school days. Strong north-westerly Shamal winds can become gusty and unpredictable, causing dust storms and sandstorms that may last for several days. Rain predominantly occurs during winter months.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

- The Operations and Clinic Team develop and update this policy annually.
- The Health and Safety Team send relevant prompts to teachers regarding hot or severe weather and share guidelines with the academic team and parents.
- The academic leadership team implements the policy and ensures teachers follow the guidelines to keep students safe.
- The Facilities Team installs and calibrates outdoor thermometers.
- The PE/Sports Department plans and coordinates outdoor activities in line with weather guidelines, using the Heat Index (HI) to determine whether outdoor activity is permitted.
- The Clinic/Medical Team checks the heat index daily during the hot season, communicating it to all staff.
- Parents remind their children to drink water regularly, wear sunscreen, and bring a hat.

4. HOT WEATHER SAFETY MEASURES

- Parents are informed about this policy and are encouraged to remind students to drink water.
- Students and staff are encouraged to wear loose clothing and appropriate hats.

- Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen before school (any broad-spectrum, all-day cream may be used) and to reapply as needed. Please note that no sunscreen are kept in the school clinic, in order to avoid allergic reactions.

5. TEMPERATURE ACTION GUIDELINES

Outdoor Temperature	Action
Below 35°C — SAFE	Establish basic heat safety and planning. Students may play outdoors. Watch for signs of discomfort. Remind students to wear hats, apply sunscreen, and drink water.
35°C – 40°C — CAUTION	Heighten awareness. Students remain indoors during breaks. Reschedule outdoor activities to a cooler time. Increase rest periods and water intake during PE.
Above 40°C — DANGER	Implement aggressive protective measures. No outdoor activities. Provide indoor areas for students to play. Increase water intake, even while indoors.

6. HEAT INDEX

The Heat Index (HI) is an index combining air temperature and relative humidity that determines the perceived equivalent temperature — how hot it feels to a person — and is used to assess whether outdoor activity should proceed under Section 5.

7. STORM CONDITIONS AND AIR QUALITY

Storm Conditions

- Mild storm conditions/light rainfall: students may walk outside; may be asked to remain inside at break and lunch.
- Moderate storm conditions/heavy rainfall: the Senior Leadership Team consults weather reports and decides the best course of action; flooded areas are cordoned off.
- Severe storm conditions/very heavy rainfall: all staff and students remain inside and away from windows until KHDA advises otherwise.

Air Quality

If air quality is deemed unhealthy per the relevant environmental guidelines, the Senior Leadership Team decides whether to keep students inside for break times.

8. ROLES IN AN EMERGENCY

Teachers, teaching assistants, and staff observe students closely for symptoms of heat-related illness and provide immediate first aid and/or take students to the clinic. Asthmatic students are observed closely during dusty conditions. The Medical Team trains staff to identify signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and breathing difficulties, and coordinates with parents to keep them updated on their child's health during school hours.

9. POLICY REVIEW

 This policy will be reviewed annually unless an incident, new legislation, or KHDA guidance suggests the need for an interim review.