MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE MALAYSIA

HAZE POLICY

The following guidelines are used as a benchmark for the decision-making process regarding the running of the College or its temporary closure during periods of low air quality.

This policy aligns with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and Department of Environment (DOE) Malaysia haze management guidance, as well as COBIS/BSO accreditation requirements for safeguarding and health protection of pupils.

The College monitors the Air Quality Index (AQI) level from several different sources including the Malaysian Department for Environment website APIMS (http://apims.doe.gov.my), focusing on the nearest official DOE ground station at Larkin, Johor (or Pasir Gudang as secondary context), the IQAir app Iskandar Puteri (NuMed station), as well as seeking advice from the State Education Department. Our AQI standard is strictly the Malaysian Department of Environment (DOE) Air Pollutant Index (API).

Automated Monitoring & Source Governance: The monitoring process is automated, taking operational source data directly from automated email alerts issued whenever a 2-hourly check finds key stations (DOE Larkin/Pasir Gudang or operational US AQI Iskandar Puteri/Johor Bahru) crossing the 90 threshold. These email alerts serve as the primary source trigger for monitoring and are sent directly to the Master, Second Master, Bursar, Head of Health and Safety, Head of Health Centre, and Operations Team. Automated monitoring information is continuously captured and recorded.

All readings and policy triggers MUST be referenced strictly to DOE's official Malaysian Air Pollutant Index (API) standard from ground stations, not third-party PSI or US AQI scales such as IQAir. Third-party US AQI readings sourced via alerts are for operational awareness only and cannot trigger legal actions or closures.

DOE's latest published thresholds for API categories are as follows:

Air Quality Index (AQI) Levels			
AQI	**Level**	**Health Implications**	**Response**
0 - 50	Good	Air quality is considered satisfactory	No action
51 - 100	Moderate	Air quality is acceptable There may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution	Beaks to be made aware of any individual whom this may affect (see medical lists) and modify their activity.
101 - 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects	Limited outdoor activity day - skills based, rather than vigorous exertion by all pupils. Active sports are held indoors. Morning/Afternoon clubs are suspended. Children with asthma or other respiratory disorders may be excused PE and Games

151 - 200	Unhealthy	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.	No activities outside. Prep dining moves into WH.
201 - 300	Very Unhealthy	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.	No activities outside. MoE may order closure, attendance at the College will be optional. Senior & Boarder dining moves into Sports Hall/Boardroom .
300 +	Hazardous	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects	Attendance at the College will be optional

1. Additional Preventive Measures

- During haze conditions, classrooms and boarding houses must ensure all air-conditioning units are operating with clean filters. Maintenance to check and replace filters weekly during prolonged haze.
- Windows and external doors should remain closed.
- The Health Centre will monitor students with asthma or respiratory sensitivity, and maintain a list of those requiring inhalers or additional medical attention.

2. Communication Protocol

- Formal communication will be issued when air quality reaches 100 and above (transitioning into Unhealthy levels).
- All AQI alerts and operational decisions will be communicated by SMT through official channels, or as conditions change during school hours.
- Parent communication should include official DOE API source references, indicating level of risk, and precautionary measures being applied in school.

3. Review and Record Keeping

- Next Review: September 2027 - in line with DOE Malaysia Air Quality Management Circular 2023 and BSO Wellbeing Standard 3.
- Maintain archived automated logs of official DOE API readings, automated source alert emails, action decisions, and communication sent to parents for 2 academic years for audit and inspection compliance. The review cycle is annual or sooner following an incident or regulatory change.

Document Management

- Document Title: Haze Policy
- Status: Published
- Author: Rakvinder Kaur (Head of Health Centre)
- Reviewed by: Bursar
- Approved by: SMT
- Review Date: September 2026
- Next Review Date: September 2027
- Circulation: MCM Staff Website