



Australian International School Hong Kong
香港澳洲國際學校



WEATHER POLICY

Updated January 2026

AISHK WEATHER GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

The rainy and typhoon season in Hong Kong is normally between April and September. The Observatory's rainstorm and typhoon warning system is designed to alert the public about the occurrence of heavy rain, which is likely to bring about major disruptions, and to ensure a state of readiness within the essential services to deal with emergencies.

To ensure the safety of all students and staff, AISHK will follow the procedures outlined in this document in-line with the Observatory's rainstorm and typhoon warning system and various actions mandated by the Education Bureau. Information about actions taken by AISHK will be communicated to parents via email and the school's website.

Useful Websites for Updates:

AISHK School Website www.aishk.edu.hk/ www.hko.gov.hk/en/
Hong Kong Observatory [www.edb.gov.hk/en/](http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/index.html)
Hong Kong Education Bureau [index.html](http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/index.html)

RAINSTORMS

| Warning | Signal | AISHK Procedure |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Thunderstorm |  | <p>AISHK operates as usual.</p> |
| Amber Rainstorm |  | <p>AISHK operates as usual.</p> <p>Before School (Announced before 8:00 am)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classes will be suspended on campus and work will be provided for students. In the event of scheduled public examinations for senior students, the Head of Secondary will communicate arrangements to students and parents via email. AISHK will accept those who arrive and retain them until it is safe to allow them to proceed home. All AISHK staff to arrive at school as usual, prioritising personal and household safety. |
| Red Rainstorm |  | <p>During School (Announced at or after 8:00 am)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AISHK operates until the end of normal school hours and parents are not required to take any action during the normal school day. AISHK staff do not leave until all student departures are safely completed. All school excursions and offsite activities will be postponed. <p>After School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students Reception to Year 12, will return to their home room and will be supervised by their teachers until the signal is lowered to Amber. Students are not permitted to be dismissed unless they are picked up by an adult or the school announces it is safe for them to leave. The bus company, will transport students home once the signal is lowered to Amber. If the Red signal remains in force at 4:15pm, buses will be cancelled and parents or guardians will need to collect students from campus. All ECAs will be cancelled. |
| Black Rainstorm |  | <p>Before School (Announced before 8:00 am)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classes will be suspended on campus and work will be provided for students. In the event of scheduled public examinations for senior students, the Head of Secondary will communicate arrangements to students and parents via email. AISHK will accept those who arrive and retain them until it is safe to allow them to proceed home. <p>During School (Announced at or after 8:00 am)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All school excursions and offsite activities will be postponed or cancelled . Parents are advised NOT to come to the school during a Black Rainstorm. Students will stay on campus supervised by their teachers, until the rain signal is lowered or they are cancelled by their parents <p>After School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No students will be dismissed. Government directives are that all persons should remain where they are until the signal is lowered, so parents should not be travelling to collect their child. All students Reception to Year 12, will return to their home room and will be supervised by their teachers. Once Black is lowered to Red, the procedures for Red rain dismissal apply. Once the rain signal has been lowered to Amber, students may be dismissed and travel home by their normal mode of transport. All ECAs will be cancelled. |

NOTES

The school monitors weather updates during rainstorms and we request that parents do the same. Personal and household safety should always be prioritised.

There are times when parents should use their discretion in deciding whether or not to send their child to school. Parents should keep their child at home if it seems that local weather, road, slope or traffic conditions at that time may be unsafe.

Local weather conditions might mean that AISHK has to close the campus to ensure the safety of the community. The announcement will be made as soon as possible.

All parents are requested to ensure that the school has up to date contact details. Parents of students using the school bus service should provide contact numbers to the bus company for communication in case of emergency (extreme weather). Please visit iSams > Communications to update your details.

TROPICAL CYCLONES

In the event of a typhoon, the school's policy is to follow instructions given by the relevant authorities, usually the Hong Kong Observatory and EDB. Please note that if the public authorities announce that Kindergartens are closed in a Typhoon Signal No. 3, this applies to our Reception Year only.

| Typhoon | Signal | AISHK Procedure |
|--|---|--|
| Hoisting No. 1 Signal |  | AISHK operates as usual. |
| Hoisting No. 1 Signal |  | Reception Year to close. Other classes to operate as usual unless advised otherwise. |
| Hoisting Pre-No. 8 or above |    | All schools to close. |
| No. 8 signal or above hoisted during the day with two hours notice | | Students that normally travel home by school bus will be sent home by bus. All other students should be collected by an adult. |
| Lowering all signals | | All classes to resume the next day. |

When a tropical cyclone is approaching Hong Kong, the Education Bureau (EDB) will make an announcement advising whether or not to send students to school. The announcements whenever possible will be before students leave their homes.

During the school day, when the Hong Kong Observatory forecasts that the weather is likely to deteriorate rapidly due to an impending Typhoon Signal 8 or above, a public announcement will be made, advising that classes will be suspended, and schools are to implement dismissal procedures for students. If the T8 signal is raised during the day (with 2 hours notice), AISHK will implement our Student Release Process. It is important that you provide the school with the release procedure for your child to go home in case of emergency dismissal due to a typhoon. Parents are asked confirm these details at the start of each year.

STUDENT RELEASE WHEN A TYPHOON NO. 8 IS RAISED DURING A SCHOOL DAY

Adults who arrive to collect students will be directed to their child's specific classroom and teacher, from where the student will be dismissed.

Primary

- Students who normally travel home independently will be dismissed directly from their classroom.
- Students who are to be picked up by helpers, parents or siblings will wait in the classroom until collected.
- Teachers will record the mode of travel and the name of the parent/carer/sibling.
- Students travelling by school bus will wait in the classroom until their specific bus is called over the P.A. system. Students will then be sent down to their respective bus.
- Students who are not collected during the designated dismissal time will wait for collection with essential staff in the 2/F Auditorium.

Secondary

- Secondary students who travel home independently will be dismissed directly from their classes.
- Secondary students who are required to accompany their younger sibling/s home will report to the relevant Primary classroom to collect their sibling/s.

AIR POLLUTION

Hong Kong experiences changeable air quality throughout the year. If your child has asthma or allergies, please make sure you alert the school when your child is enrolled. The school's responses to air quality are informed by the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) ratings issued by the Environmental Protection Department. The response and recommendations for each AQHI band is displayed below for both Kindegarten and Primary/Secondary.

KINDEGARTEN

| AQHI Band | Health Advice | Recommendations for Schools |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| 1 - 3 (Low) | No response action is required. | No response action is required. |
| 4 - 6 (Moderate) | No response action is normally required. Individuals with existing heart or respiratory illness who are experiencing symptoms are advised to consider reducing outdoor physical exertion. | No response action is required. |
| 7 (High) | School children are advised to reduce outdoor physical exertion and to minimise time outdoors, especially in areas with heavy traffic. | Physical activities of <u>moderate to low</u> intensity are recommended. Activities <u>not recommended</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vigorous activities (e.g. chasing games) • Prolonged outdoor activities |
| 8 - 10 (Very High) | School children are advised to reduce to the minimum outdoor physical exertion and to minimise time outdoors, especially in areas with heavy traffic. | Physical activities of <u>low intensity</u> are recommended. Activities <u>not recommended</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chasing/vigorous games • Playing slide or climbing jungle gym <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running/jumping • Riding tricycle • Prolonged outdoor activities |
| 10+ (Serious) | School children are advised to avoid outdoor physical exertion and to avoid staying outdoors, especially in areas with heavy traffic. | Avoid physical exertion and staying outdoors |

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

| AQHI Band | Health Advice | Recommendations for Schools |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1 - 3 (Low) | No response action is required. | No response action is required. |
| 4 - 6 (Moderate) | No response action is normally required. Individuals with existing heart or respiratory illness who are experiencing symptoms are advised to consider reducing outdoor physical exertion. | No response action is required. |
| 7 (High) | School children are advised to reduce outdoor physical exertion and to minimise time outdoors, especially in areas with heavy traffic. | The intensity and duration of outdoor activities should be at a <u>moderate level</u> . |
| 8 - 10 (Very High) | School children are advised to reduce to the minimum outdoor physical exertion and to minimise time outdoors, especially in areas with heavy traffic. | The intensity and duration of the activities should be at a <u>moderate-to-low level</u> . Activities that are <u>not recommended</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-country • Road-running race |
| 10+ (Serious) | School children are advised to avoid outdoor physical exertion and to avoid staying outdoors, especially in areas with heavy traffic. | Activities that are <u>not recommended</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor PE lessons • Games Days • Athletics Meets/Swimming Galas • Sports competitions • Outdoor activities • Cross-country • Road-running race |

VERY HOT WEATHER WARNING PROCEDURES

AISHK's response to hot weather conditions is guided by the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO). When the Very Hot Weather warning is in force, AISHK will enact the following procedures:

- Regular drink breaks throughout the day, including before and after outdoor play breaks.
- Students encouraged to seek indoor shelter through the library/cafeteria/indoor clubs (where appropriate for the year level).
- Hats always worn outside for Primary students and strongly encouraged for Secondary students.
- Encourage students to apply sunscreen before going outside (sunscreen available in Primary classrooms and the Nurse's Office on 2/F).
- Drink bottles taken to recess and lunch playing times.
- Certain outdoor activities, such as PE lessons, outdoor ECA's and outdoor excursions will be modified as appropriate or postponed/cancelled.
- Flag system (see on next page) used to remind students of how to stay safe in the weather conditions

In the event that a student becomes unwell due to excessive heat, the student is to be taken directly to the School Nurse on 2/F.

AISHK WEATHER FLAGS

AISHK has created a flag system that is used to remind students of weather conditions. Each flag indicates a different weather condition, informing students and staff of possible actions they need to take to stay safe outdoors. The flag system will be operational during Term 2 and Term 3, unless otherwise directed. Flags will be displayed outside of the Nurse's Office on the 2/F and in a visible location on the field. The table below outlines the meaning and recommended action for each flag.

| Flag | When raised guidelines | Actions and advice |
|---------------|---|---|
| Green | Below 30°C, moderate humidity | Normal conditions. Outside play as usual. Wear hats, drink water, use sunscreen. |
| Yellow | Around 30-33°C, high relative humidity, and/or HKO issues Hot Weather Special Advisory | Hot Weather Take Care. Children should be advised to reduce outdoor physical exertion and seek shade. Watch for signs of heat stress. Review any planned outdoor activities and modify if needed, especially for younger students or those with underlying health conditions. Initiate any student health plans as needed. Everyone should wear hats, drink lots of water, use sunscreen |
| Red | Usually > 33°C or multiple consecutive hot days/nights, very high relative humidity, HKO issues Very Hot Weather Warning and/or Special Advisory. AQHI readings of 7, 8 or 9. | Very Hot Weather Warning/High Pollution Provide regular drink breaks through the day, including before and after outdoor play. Children are encouraged to shelter indoors or stay in the shade. Avoid running and outdoor physical exertion. Review all planned outdoor activities and modify or postpone as required. Initiate any student health plans as needed. Everyone should wear hats, drink lots of water, use sunscreen, watch for signs of heat stress. |