

Forest School Air Quality Policy (effective 9/1/2026)

1. All staff will be aware of locally issued Air Quality Warnings and regularly monitor AQI using the [Kaleidoscope Forest PurpleAir monitor](#).
2. Staff will monitor AQI as reported by the PurpleAir monitor maintained by Kaleidoscope and evaluate conditions hourly during school days.
3. Families will be notified when Air Quality Warnings are in effect and possible actions that may occur as a result (e.g. cancellation, delay or closure).

Orcas Island is unique in that it does not have an Air Quality Monitoring instrument that is connected to the Northwest Clean Air Agency. Because of this, apps such as AirNow (funded by the EPA), AirQualityWA (funded by WA state), and other weather apps often report the air quality of nearby locations such as Anacortes.

Kaleidoscope's AQI Policy is based on data gathered locally via PurpleAir monitors, calculated using the hourly average. Kaleidoscope currently maintains a [PurpleAir monitor](#) neighboring the Forest School site.

Kaleidoscope has adopted the following Action Plan based on recommendations from the [WA State Department of Health for Outdoor Programs](#) and [Department of Labor & Industries](#). It is important to note that Air Quality Conditions can change very rapidly.

AQI Color	Level of Concern	Values of Index	Action
Green	Good	0-50	None
Yellow	Moderate	51-100	* Monitor changes in AQI to assess the potential need for action. * Monitor children for symptoms related to poor air quality. * Encourage light activities and provide frequent rest periods.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	* If AQI exceeds 100 for 4 hours Forest School must close. * Update families hourly, based on hourly average provided by PurpleAir. * Notify families to pick up children when AQI exceeds 100 for 4 hours. * If AQI is elevated above 100 at program start, delay opening until 10am at which time if AQI hourly average remains above 100, Kaleidoscope will remain closed.
Red	Unhealthy	151-200	Cancel Forest School
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201-300	Cancel Forest School
Maroon	Hazardous	301 or Higher	Cancel Forest School