



## **POLICY (Number: Dvi)**

### **DECLARATION OF CAMPUS AS A SMOKE-FREE ZONE**

This policy is in accordance with the The Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill (Act 12 of 1999), as amended.

Research proves that the use of tobacco is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. Despite the implementation of various tobacco control interventions (increased taxation, mass media campaigns, smoke-free laws for indoor public places, etc.) the prevalence of tobacco use remains problematic. In a study comparing teenage smokers and non-smokers, researchers found that the greater a teen's addiction to nicotine, the less active an area of the brain called the prefrontal cortex (PFC) became. The PFC guides "executive functions" like decision-making, and is an area that is still developing structurally and functionally in adolescents. Given that the onset of smoking generally takes place during adolescence and results in increased tobacco involvement in adult life, this policy focuses on the prevention of smoking behavior at school.

We believe that a smoke-free school provides an environment that protects and promotes the health and well-being of the Somerset House community.

Having previously declared Somerset House a drug and gun-free zone in 2015, the Board declared the school a smoke free-zone in 2016.

Our approach will include:

- Informing parents of new entrants of the school's smoke-free policy
- Advise visiting schools of this policy
- Actively informing parents/visitors of this ruling at school events on campus
- Advise contractors and others working on the school campus of this policy
- Ensuring that organisations/individuals using/hiring the school facilities agree in writing to comply with this policy
- Promoting all school activities outside of our school's campus as smoke-free (e.g. field trips, sporting events, etc.)
- Disallow any form of advertising of tobacco products