



CHURCHLANDS
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES POLICY

1. POLICY STATEMENT

To provide guidelines and expectations for Churchlands Senior High School (Churchlands SHS) students around the use of prohibitive substances in order to aid them in leading physically and mentally healthy lifestyles.

2. POLICY SCOPE

The use of prohibited substances is a very complex issue and problems relating to their use result from a combination of many contributing factors.

This policy is one part of the wider community's reaction to the use of prohibited substances. Churchlands SHS implements preventative and intervention strategies to address these issues.

Churchlands SHS is committed to a holistic attitude towards wellbeing through a healthy lifestyle inclusive of diet, exercise and sleep.

3. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this document, a "prohibited substance" is defined as any substances other than food and water which when taken into the body alters its function physically and/or psychologically.

Examples of prohibited substances: illicit drugs; non-prescribed pharmaceuticals; alcohol; tobacco products; vaping products; energy drinks and chewing gum.

4. PROCEDURES

Churchlands SHS:

- Addresses prevention, education and awareness, intervention and sanctions for managing the use of prohibited substances.
- Is consistent with the administrative requirements of the Department of Education.
- Is consistent with state and federal laws.

Our aim is to educate our students for life with the goal of leading physically and mentally healthy lifestyles.

4.1 Education Program

Churchlands SHS aims to provide students with knowledge and strategies to adopt when faced with prohibited substances. Our program includes:

- A whole-school, cross-curricular approach to delivering a message of abstinence and/or harm reduction.
- Provision of a supportive system including access to counselling for students and parents when needed.
- Parent awareness evenings relating to prohibited substance issues.
- Availability of staff to counsel students affected by prohibited substances.
- Referral and information for families affected by prohibited substance use.
- A compulsory Health Education program in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 that educates young people about the negative impact of prohibited substances use.

4.2 Process for Intervention

In a situation where behaviours indicate possible health and safety risks to the student, other sanctions will be applied. Students who receive sanctions for prohibited substances related incidents will have the opportunity to engage with an external service provider as part of the re-entry process. When a student is suspected of being under the influence of a prohibited substance, parents will be informed and the student may need to be collected from school.

4.3 Suspension

Possession, distribution or being under the influence of a prohibited substance will result in suspension and/or possible involvement of police.

In some cases where there is denial by the student, to alleviate suspicion the parent may provide medical evidence to the contrary.

In certain cases, an inter-agency approach may be used, involving the police, community drug service team and allied health agencies.

4.4 Work Readiness and Safety

All students must present themselves prohibited substance free for school and work placements. This may involve pre-screening and it will be the student/family responsibility to ensure they comply. This is an accepted basic workplace requirement and participation in programs may be at risk if a student is found to be under the influence of a prohibited substance.

4.5 Someone to Talk to – School-based

House Coordinators, Heads of Year, Psychologists, Youth Support Officer, Youth Support Coordinator, Chaplains, First Aid Officers.

4.6 Medical and Prescription Drugs

Students on prescribed medication are encouraged, where possible, to take their medication at home.

Students using prescribed medication may only carry enough medication for one day's use to school (excluding liquid antibiotics and eye drops).

Prescribed medication should be clearly labelled with the name of the student, date, dosage and frequency.

Prescribed medication may be left with the school First Aid Officer for administration when:

Form 3-Medication Administration has been completed prior. Refer to Administration of Medication Policy and Procedures (DET 1997) for guidelines on the administration of prescribed and over-the-counter medications.

***PLEASE NOTE:** Staff are NOT ALLOWED to give prescribed nor over-the-counter pain and/or flu relief medication to students without prior completion of a Form 3-Medication Administration or permission from parents/caregivers. Form 3-Medication Administration can be obtained from the Front Office or the First Aid Office.*

4.6.1 Students with asthma are encouraged to carry reliever medication at all times. Ventolin and spacers are always available at the First Aid Office and the Physical Education Department. Teachers are aware of the correct administration of Ventolin (refer to the Asthma Emergency Plan).

4.6.2 Students who have EpiPens need to ensure they are in-date and carry them in their school bag.

4.6.3 School camps and excursions: Analgesics and prescribed medication with a completed Form 3-Medication Administration (to include name of student, dates to be administered, daily dose, frequency) from the parents must be given to the specified teacher.

5. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Department of Education Policies:

- Student Behaviour in Public Schools Policy
- Duty of care for Public School students
- Whole School Drug Education Plan (SDERA)
- Occupational Safety and Health
- Manage student health care needs and medication
- Manage storage of medication

6. RESPONSIBLE STAFF MEMBER

Policy Manager	Principal
Responsible Staff	Associate Principals and Head of Year
Approval Authority	Churchlands SHS Board
Approval date	18 May 2023
Next evaluation date	May 2026

7. REVISION HISTORY

Version	Approved Amended Rescinded	Date	Authority	Key changes/notes
V1	Approved	18 May 2023	Churchlands SHS Board	As Above
V2	Approved	1 September 2025	Principal	Chewing gum added to definitions.