

Wallingford Public Library Library Services for Minors Policy

Service to children, teens, parents, guardians, and adults working with minors is an important part of the library's mission.

It is not the library's function or purpose to provide supervision or care for minors. Parents and/or guardians should be aware that the library is a public building open to all individuals. The following policy is intended to communicate the library's concern for the safety and welfare of the minors it serves.

- Minors in fifth grade or lower must have a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver available in the building while using the library. Minors under the age of six must have a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver within sight at all times. **Minors in sixth grade and above** may use the library unaccompanied by an adult. Parents and guardians are responsible for the safety and conduct of their teen while on library premises, whether or not they accompany their teen to the library.
- **Minors**, like all library users, are required to respect library property, and act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the library (see [Code of Conduct](#)). Minors of any age who are not using the library appropriately, or who require excessive staff attention or supervision, may be asked to leave the library. The guardians of these minors may be notified, and if necessary, asked to stay with them during future library visits.
- Guardians are expected to be aware of the opening and closing times of the library, bearing in mind that these can and do change. Power failures or other emergencies can occur and require unexpected evacuations of the building. Minors left alone in the library, or on library grounds could be vulnerable. Every effort will be made to contact a guardian prior to closing. If a minor in fifth grade or lower is left at the library after closing time, the police will be called. Under no circumstances will a staff member offer to drive a minor of any age home.

Use of the Children's Room and Teen Area by Adults

- Adults are allowed in the Children's Room when they are accompanying a minor, when they require access to the children's collection, or by special permission of Library staff.
- Adults are welcome to use the computers and seating areas located in the teen area when school is in session. When school is not in session this area is exclusively designated for the use of middle and high school students. Exceptions may be made for tutors when appropriate.

Revised and approved by the Library Board of Managers on January 22, 2024.