



Code of Conduct

The Wallingford Public Library exists to provide open access to its resources and services. Library patrons are expected to respect the rights of other patrons, library staff, and library property. The policy of the Wallingford Public Library is to require that all patrons act in a manner that complies with the functioning of the library's code of conduct as set forth below.

- Intermittent conversation, at a low level, is permitted. Loud or continuous conversations or those disruptive to others is considered inappropriate behavior. Quiet cell phone conversations are permitted as long as they do not disturb others.
- Minors in fifth grade or lower must have a responsible family member or caregiver available in the building while the minor is using the library. Minors under the age of six must have a responsible adult within sight at all times. Please see the Library Services for Minors Policy for full details.
- Adults are allowed in the children's room when they are accompanying a minor or when they require access to the children's collection.
- 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.
- Non-alcoholic beverages are permitted in spill-proof containers. Food, except at special functions, may only be consumed in the lower lobby.
- The library is not responsible for personal items that are lost, stolen, or damaged on the premises.
- If an offensive or noxious odor associated with a library patron interferes with the use of the library by others, the library staff may require such patron to leave the premises.
- Service animals specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are welcome. Emotional support animals and pets are not permitted.
- Shoes and attire that covers all private anatomy are required.

The following are strictly prohibited in the library and on its grounds:

- Smoking, vaping, use of e-cigarettes or tobacco products, alcohol, marijuana, or illegal drugs anywhere on the premises.
- Littering.
- Making unreasonable use of the rest rooms, including laundering clothes and bathing.
- Damaging, defacing, or misusing any library materials or property. This includes disabling library equipment, changing the hardware or software settings on a library computer, or using a library computer for a purpose other than that designated by the library.
- Carrying weapons of any kind, except by law enforcement personnel.
- Using a bicycle, skates, skateboard, scooter, or anything similar in an unsafe or unreasonable manner.
- Soliciting, petitioning, canvassing, proselytizing, selling of any goods, or use of the Library as a primary business location without permission from the library director or designee.
- Threatening or engaging in physical or verbal abuse toward library staff or patrons.
- Harassing or disturbing others by:
 - using obscene or abusive language or gestures
 - staring at another person with the intent to annoy that person
 - following another person around the building

- playing audio equipment so that others can hear it
- singing, talking, laughing, or yelling loudly
- displaying unacceptable behavior that causes staff or patrons to feel harassed or threatened
- displaying, broadcasting, and/or webcasting content that is illegal or causes staff or patrons to feel harassed or threatened
- behaving in a manner which can reasonably be expected to disturb any other person
- Leaving packages, backpacks, luggage, or any personal items unattended.
- Any unlawful behaviors.
- Refusing to comply with any staff member's instructions or attempt to enforce these rules.

Failure to adhere to the Code of Conduct may result in loss of library privileges. Visitors who do not follow the library's Code of Conduct can be asked to leave and can lose their library privileges. They can also be arrested or be subject to other legal action.

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

The Wallingford Public Library affirms [the American Library Association's Code of Ethics](#).