

CHILD SAFETY POLICY

The Beaman Memorial Public Library operates as an open community space during its public hours. While efforts are made to provide a welcoming and secure environment, parents and guardians are advised that the Library does not offer continuous supervision of unattended children. To promote the safety of all minors, the Board of Trustees has established the following policy regarding the supervision of children within the Library.

1. Children visiting the library must conduct themselves in accordance with the Library's Acceptable Use Policy.
 - a. Parents will be notified if children are not adhering to the guidelines of this policy.
 - b. Violations of the Acceptable Use Policy will be handled in accordance with the guidelines established in the Acceptable Use Policy.
 - c. Children under the age of 13 who have severe or continuous violations will be removed from the library. If a supervising parent/caregiver cannot be located within the building, the West Boylston Police Department will be contacted to provide assistance.
2. Children who are 9 years or younger cannot be left unattended at any time except under the following conditions
 - a. The child is attended by an older child or teenager who is able and willing to provide supervision.
 - b. The child is attending a library program and the parent/caregiver is present within the building.

Note: upon the conclusion of the program, the parent/caregiver must promptly meet the child at the location where the program was held. Library staff are not responsible for supervising children after a program has been concluded.
3. Children between the ages of 10 and 13 may be left unattended for up to 2 hours at a time. After 2 hours have elapsed, the parent/caregiver needs to check in with the child and a member of staff to ensure that the child is complying with Library policies.

Notes: Use of the Library by unattended children in this age group is a privilege. Library staff may revoke this privilege at any time if the child is not acting in accordance with this policy (including the policy on Acceptable Library Use).

 - a. Unattended children must have contact information for their parent/caregiver. Contact cards are available at the Children's Desk.

4. If a child who is 13 years or younger is in the Library without a caretaker at the Library's scheduled closing time, staff will attempt to contact the parent/caregiver. If the parent/caregiver is unable to be contacted, the staff will contact the West Boylston Police Department to assist in locating the parent/caretaker. If an unexpected delay of the parent/caretaker is anticipated, the parent/caretaker should contact the Library and inform staff of the situation. Repeated failure to meet children at closing time can lead to the loss of privileges to use the library unattended.
5. The library is not responsible for children outside the building.
6. Library staff cannot prevent children from interacting with or leaving with anyone who is not the appropriate supervising adult.

Approved by the Beaman Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees on January 14, 2025