

Dunbarton Public Library

Code of Conduct Policy

The Dunbarton Public Library strives to provide a welcoming environment for all visitors. So that no one may interfere with any other person's ability to use the library, or the staff's ability to provide services, the following rules and regulations are established for behaviors in the library, the building and the grounds.

Library Rules and Code of Conduct:

The following code of behavior governing the use of the library by the public shall be enforced in order to provide a standard of acceptable behavior. Library visitors unwilling to modify unacceptable behavior will be asked to leave the premises. The Dunbarton Police Department will be called when conduct is illegal, when a threat is posed to the library or individuals, or when a visitor refuses to follow library policies or refuses to leave the library or building when asked to do so.

1. Persons are prohibited from loitering on library or building premises in a manner which interferes with normal activities of library patrons or staff, or which blocks or obstructs doorways, hallways, aisles, sidewalk or parking lot.
2. Being under the influence of alcohol/illegal drugs, or selling, using, or possessing alcohol/illegal drugs is not permitted on Town property.
3. Smoking, including use of electronic cigarettes or any other type of smoking device, or chewing tobacco is not permitted on library property.
4. Cell phone and pager use is allowed, but, as a courtesy to others, we ask that cell phones and pagers be turned to silent (or vibrate) and that telephone conversations be short and held at volumes that do not disturb others.
5. Playing audio equipment without headphones, including the library's computer, is not permissible.
6. Verbally or physically threatening or harassing other visitors or staff, including stalking, staring, lurking, offensive touching and obscene acts are not permitted.
7. Fighting, or challenging to fight, running, pushing, shoving or throwing things are not allowed.
8. Using abusive, obscene or profane language in such a manner as to threaten or infringe the rights or safety of another person is not permitted.
9. Users whose bodily hygiene is so offensive as to constitute a nuisance to other persons shall be required to leave the building for the remainder of the day.
10. Library users must be fully clothed, including shirts and shoes.
11. Lying down or sleeping on any floor, couch, table, seat, or in the bathroom is not permitted.
12. Bringing in articles that are too large to fit beneath one library chair is not permissible. Articles will have to be kept outside the building.

13. Wheeled devices (bicycles, skateboard, roller skates and scooters) with the exception of strollers, wheelchairs or walkers, shall be left outside the building, and not obstruct traffic entering or exiting the building.
14. With the exception of service animals and Reading Therapy Dogs, animals are not permitted in the building.
15. Patrons are expected to treat library materials and equipment with respect. Misuse, defacing or damaging library property is prohibited.
16. Parents are responsible for the behavior and supervision of their children. Children under the age of 12 should not be left alone in the building (see Unattended Children Policy).
17. Patrons using library computers shall not view or print pornography or photos showing explicit sexual activity or violence. Use of library computers for any illegal or inappropriate activity is strictly prohibited. Library staff will contact the Dunbarton Police Department if illegal activity is observed or reported.
18. Solicitation and distribution of non-library materials is not permitted without the permission of the Library Director.

Failure to comply with these rules may lead to immediate loss of library privileges without notice, and eviction from the building. Reinstatement of privileges requires a written request for an appointment with the Library Board of Trustees.

Adopted by the Dunbarton Public Library Board of Trustees, September 16, 2019.

Reviewed by the Dunbarton Public Library Board of Trustees, October 5, 2020.

Amended by the Dunbarton Public Library Board of Trustees, April 10, 2023