

Appropriate Patron Behavior Policy

The Public Library of Brookline is a tax-supported town agency which is available to all, regardless of age, residence, race, gender, sexual orientation, education, socioeconomic status or religion. The Public Library of Brookline's governing authority, the Board of Trustees, has established the following set of guidelines in order to: protect all library users' right of access to library facilities; ensure the safety of users and staff; and protect library resources and facilities from damage.

Violation of the following code of behavior, governing the use of the Public Library of Brookline by the public, may result in termination of library privileges and/or exclusion from the Library.

1. Respect for the rights of other Library users and Library staff shall be maintained at all times.
2. Posted Quiet and Silent zones must be observed.
3. Shouting, running, pushing or other disruptive behavior is not allowed in the Library.
4. Bicycles, inline skates, skateboards, scooters or similar recreational equipment may not be used in the library building or parking lot. Bicycles should be left in the racks outside of the building.
5. Library users are expected to cooperate with staff when closing time is announced. Notice is given to Library users approximately 15 minutes before closing to provide enough time to gather belongings and check out materials.
6. Appropriate attire must be worn in the Library at all times (e.g. shirt, pants, and shoes).
7. Library bathrooms may not be used for bathing or shampooing, shaving, doing laundry, or changing clothes.
8. Library users whose bodily hygiene is so offensive as to constitute a nuisance to other persons shall be required to leave the building.
9. Smoking (including e-cigarettes), vaping, or the use of smokeless tobacco is not allowed in the Library.
10. Library users may not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the building or on Library grounds.
11. Damaging Library property is not allowed.
12. All Library materials must be checked out before Library users leave the building.
13. Library users are responsible for their personal property. Please do not leave items unattended.
14. No soliciting of goods and services is allowed in the Library or on Library grounds.
15. Possession of firearms or other dangerous weapons is prohibited (as per Town bylaws).
16. Designated youth spaces (Children's, Tween and/or Teen Rooms) are reserved for Library users age 19 or younger (in 12th grade or below) and their caregivers. Unattended adults may only use these spaces while retrieving materials from youth collections or seeking the assistance of a Library staff member. Any Library user who does not meet the age requirements of a youth space may be asked to relocate at any time.
17. Any Library user who, in the opinion of the staff, is engaging in conduct that interferes with the orderly operation of the library, will be asked to leave.
18. Engaging in any activity in violation of federal, state, local law or Library policy is not allowed in the Library or on Library grounds.

For additional information please see:

Food and Drink Policy

Parental Responsibility Policy

Noise Level Policy

Voted by Board of Library Trustees: June 26, 2002. Amended: March 13, 2012; March 19, 2019;
October 16, 2025