

WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Patron Behavior Policy

Whitman Public Library is committed to fostering an inclusive, safe, and mutually supportive community through insuring open and fair access to its collection, programs, and services. The Library aims to serve the community through ensuring courteous and respectful interactions between patrons and staff.

Towards the protection of an inclusive, safe, and mutually supportive library, the Whitman Library Board of Trustees have established the following Patron Conduct Policy.

The following are prohibited at Whitman Public Library:

- Any activity prohibited by law
- Disruptive or unsafe behavior, including anything that interferes with the use or functions of library patrons or staff
- Theft (MGL Ch. 266, Sec. 99)
- Loud, abusive, threatening, insulting, or otherwise disruptive language or sounds, in-person or via electronic communication.
- Abusing library computer equipment (MGL, Ch. 266, Sec. 100) such as banging on keyboards, misappropriation of or attempts to alter hardware or software
- Food and uncovered drinks
- Public intoxication
- Any activities that may result in damage to library property or materials (MGL, Ch. 266, Sec. 100)
- Unauthorized solicitation of staff or patrons
- Smoking (including e-cigarettes and vapes)
- Unaccompanied children under the age of nine. Patrons aged thirteen and above can supervise children under nine
- Adults unaccompanied by children in the Youth Services Area. Adults who wish to use children's or young adult materials are asked to notify staff on duty of their need and to take their selections to the main floor.

Whitman Library reserves the right to deny use of its services and access to its facilities to individuals who do not abide by the Patron Conduct Policy. Library staff may ask individuals who are exhibiting inappropriate behavior to modify their behavior. Noncompliance may result in the individual being banned from the library premises or in arrest and prosecution.

Reviewed and approved by the Board of Library Trustees on August 14, 2019.