

Whitehall Public Library Policies

Title	Unattended Children
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Purpose:

The Whitehall Public Library is dedicated to providing a warm and safe environment for all children. The Whitehall Public Library has adopted the following Unattended Children Policy in order to ensure the safety of children using the Library.

Statement of Policy:

The Library staff is not responsible for any unattended child. Parents/Guardians are responsible for their minor children’s actions whether they accompany their children to the library or not. The responsibility for the safety and behavior of children in the Library rests with the individual responsible for the child, not Library staff, with the exception of Library programs. If children are invited to attend Library programs without a parent or legal guardian accompanying them, then they are, for the duration of the program only, considered to be supervised by Library staff and are thus not unattended.

Children under the age of 12 should not be left unsupervised in any area of the Library.

Accompanying adults may not leave children in the temporary care of another child under the age of 12.

Children under the age of 12 should not be left unattended in the restrooms.

Children age 12 or older may use the Library on their own provided that they maintain proper Library user behavior (see Library User Behavior Policy). Parents or legal guardians, however, are still responsible for the actions of their children age twelve or older. Behavior deemed inappropriate by Library staff may result in a child being asked to leave the Library. All children should know a phone number for emergency contact purposes.

Persons of any age with mental, physical or emotional disabilities which may affect their ability to use the Library responsibly and safely must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver at all times.

Children and young people are expected to adhere to the same standards of Library user behavior expected by adults (see Library User Behavior Policy). Parents, legal guardians, or assigned chaperones are responsible for the behavior of their children while in the Library.

The Library staff will exercise appropriate procedures to ensure the safety of unattended children when the Library is closing. In addition to scheduled closing hours, the Library may also close for unexpected

reasons. If no parent or legal guardian is located upon Library closing, the police will be notified. A staff member will remain with the child until the authorities arrive.