

Child Safety Policy

1. Supervision and Responsibility

Parents and guardians are responsible for the supervision and behaviour of their children while in the Library. Library staff cannot be responsible for supervising children. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

2. Unsupervised children

Children under the age of 8 should not be left unattended in the Library. If a child is left unattended and staff are concerned for their safety, they will try to contact their parent or carer. If all attempts to contact the parent or carer fail, staff will contact the Police Public Protection Unit so they can take over protection of the child.

3. Customer behaviour in the Library

Children and young people visiting the Library are expected to follow the Library's Customer Behaviour Policy, which includes showing consideration to the needs of other customers, staff, and volunteers.

4. Reporting concerns

If a staff member observes any situation that may threaten the safety or wellbeing of a child, they will report it to the Multi-Agency Support Hub (MASH) or Police Public Protection Unit as necessary. If a Library user has concerns about the well-being of a child in the Library, they are encouraged to inform staff.

5. Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency, staff will follow established procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Library users, including children.

6. Photographs

Permission to take a photo of a child at a Library activity or event will always be sought from the child's parent or carer. This may be in person, if the parent is attending the event, or by a permission form signed in advance.

7. Internet Safety

Public access computers are provided at the library for use by visitors to the library. Our membership forms inform parents that their children are able to access a filtered internet service either using the public access computers, or via public access WiFi using their own smart devices.

Access to the internet is filtered, but there is the possibility that children and young people may still be able to access unsuitable material.