

## PUBLIC BEHAVIOR POLICY

### I. Purpose

Connetquot Public Library is a shared public space dedicated to learning, reading, discovery, and community. To ensure a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment for all visitors and staff, the following behavior guidelines apply to everyone on Library property.

### II. Expected Behavior

All visitors are expected to:

- Treat others with respect and courtesy.
- Follow all Library policies and staff instructions.
- Use Library materials, furniture, and equipment responsibly.
- Maintain a reasonable noise level and be mindful of others.

### III. Prohibited Behavior

To preserve a safe and respectful environment, the following behaviors are **not permitted** in the Library or on Library property:

#### A. Disruptive or Inappropriate Conduct

- Loud talking, shouting, or disruptive noise (including from cell phones, headphones, or devices).
- Use of profanity, obscene gestures, or rude behavior.
- Talking on a cell phone at a volume louder than a normal conversation.
- Excessive cell phone ringing (phones should be silenced or set to vibrate).
- Loitering, wandering, or sleeping on Library premises.
- Fighting, physical altercations, pushing, shoving, or throwing objects.
- Running or roughhousing.

#### B. Unlawful or Dangerous Activity

- Engaging in any activity that violates federal, state, or local laws or Library policies.
- Being under the influence of, using, selling, or possessing alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Possessing firearms or other dangerous weapons (except by law enforcement officers).
- Verbally or physically threatening others, including stalking or harassment.
- Indecent exposure or offensive touching.
- Trespassing in non-public areas or remaining in the Library outside of open hours.

#### C. Use of Library Facilities and Property

- Using audio devices without headphones or at a volume others can hear.
- Eating outside of designated lounge areas.
- Smoking, vaping, or use of tobacco products in the Library.
- Littering or improper disposal of trash.

- Sitting on tables, placing feet on furniture, or misusing Library furnishings.
- Damaging, defacing, or tampering with Library property, equipment, or materials.
- Leaving personal items unattended (items may be removed by staff for safety).

#### **D. Hygiene and Attire**

- Entering the Library barefoot, shirtless, or in swimwear.
- Wearing clothing or accessories with offensive images or language.
- Personal hygiene that is disruptive to others (e.g., strong odor noticeable from a distance).

#### **E. Animals**

- Only service animals or animals participating in approved Library programs are allowed inside the Library.

### **IV. Children and Supervision**

- Children the age of **10** and under must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible caregiver at all times.
- Adults not accompanied by a child may not use designated children's areas unless they are using materials from those collections.

### **V. Solicitation**

- Soliciting, petitioning, or distributing materials is not permitted without prior authorization from Library administration.

### **VI. Enforcement**

Library staff are authorized to interpret and enforce this Code of Conduct. Anyone who violates these rules may be:

- Asked to stop the behavior.
- Asked to leave the Library for the remainder of the day.
- Temporarily banned from the Library for a defined period of time, depending on the severity or frequency of the violation.
- Permanently banned from Library property for serious or repeated offenses.
- Reported to law enforcement if the behavior is illegal, threatening, or poses a safety risk.

Refusal to leave when directed by Library staff will be considered trespassing and may result in police involvement.