



## Scituate Town Library Computer & Internet Use Policy

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The Scituate Town Library endeavors to develop and provide appropriate access to library collections, resources and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of the residents of Scituate.

The Internet, as accessed through the Library, is intended to be an educational and informational tool. The Library provides Internet access via its own computers as well as through a public wifi. Internet access is available to users in grade 5 and above, and to younger patrons who are accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

The Scituate Town Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. As with any other library materials, restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

The Library strives to balance the rights of patrons to access all types of information resources with the rights of patrons and staff to work in a public setting free from disruptive sounds and visuals. Patrons are reminded that computer terminals are located in public areas which are shared with patrons and staff of all ages, backgrounds and sensibilities. Individuals are expected to consider this diversity and respect the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information or images.

Library users may not disseminate, exhibit or display to minors materials that are harmful to minors. It is not acceptable for a minor to receive any material that is deemed harmful under the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) through a web site, email, chat room or other direct electronic communication. Unacceptable material includes any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that, with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in sexuality.

It is not acceptable to use Internet access for any purposes which violate federal, state or local laws. Examples of unacceptable use include, but are not limited to: harassment of library users or staff; libeling or slandering others; violation of computer security systems, unauthorized use of computer accounts, access codes, or network identification numbers assigned to others; destruction or damage to equipment, software or data belonging to the library or other users; disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications; unauthorized copying of copyright protected materials.

All computer and Internet users are required to agree to the terms of this policy.

Violations of this policy will result in loss of computer privileges and may result in the loss of library privileges. Illegal acts involving library computing resources may be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.