

Unattended Children Policy

Reference Number:	Section 5 No. 5
Responsible Department:	Library Services
Related Policy/Procedure:	Library User Code of Conduct 5.4 Children and Vulnerable Persons' Safety Policy 2.05
Date of Adoption:	23 May 2000
Current Review Date:	March 2021
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Version Number:	Amendment 3
Applicable Legislation:	Local Government Act, 1999 Libraries Act, 1985 Children's Protection Act, 1993 Children and Young People (safety) Act 2017
Next Review Date:	November 2024
Review Frequency:	Triennially

1. Purpose

The Light Regional Council Library Service welcomes children of all ages to use its facilities and services. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of children the following policy is adopted.

2. Policy

- 2.1 Responsibility for the welfare and the behaviour of children using the libraries rests with the parent or caregiver.
- 2.2 Though staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot assume responsibility for children's safety and comfort when they are left unattended.
- 2.3 Staff may need to contact authorities, such as the police, either to assist with the enforcement of the Code of Conduct in the libraries or to ensure the safety of an unattended child as per Children and Vulnerable Persons' Safety Policy (see policy 2.05).
- 2.4 Young children should be attended and adequately supervised by a parent, guardian or responsible person.
- 2.5 Older children may use the libraries unattended, provided they are able to maintain proper behaviour outlined in the Light Regional Council Library Services 'Code of Conduct' (see Policy 5.4)

History of Policy Amendment

1. Original Policy adopted by Council 23 May 2000, refer Council Minute 15.2.2.1, Page 2000/161
2. Policy reviewed by Council on 22 August 2001, (change of Council name only amendment) refer Council Minute 13.2.1, Page 2001/278
3. Policy reviewed by Council on 22 October 2013, refer Council Minute 10.2.8, Page 2013/306.
4. Amendment No 3 adopted by Council on 23 March 2021, Minute Reference 12.2.4, Page Reference 2021/71

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