Hopkinton Public Library Public Computer and Internet Use Policy

The Hopkinton Public Library provides access to public computers and a wireless internet connection as part of the Library's information services. The Library does not filter its Internet access, and will not be held responsible for inaccurate or offensive materials found on the Internet. Reference librarians are available to assist patrons with assessing information they find on the Internet and with identifying credible sources of information.

To ensure a safe and secure environment, the library expects patrons using computers and Internet in the building to comply with the following rules:

- Use of the public computers requires a valid C/W MARS library card or a guest pass which can be obtained from any of the library's public service desks. Patrons who have a library card are generally expected to use their card, not a guest pass, to log in. Use is limited to one person per computer unless otherwise arranged with Library staff.

- Public computer sessions are limited to one hour if others are waiting. If no one is waiting, sessions are automatically extended for 30 minutes at a time.

- Patrons shall not use the library's computers or wireless internet for any illegal activity, including, but not limited to, the use of library computers for hacking and unauthorized copying of copyright-protected material in any format. Patrons shall not use the library's computers or wireless internet to send, receive, or publish any abusive, threatening, or illegal materials.

- Patrons should be sensitive about viewing or leaving material on their screens which may be disturbing to staff or other patrons, whether on their own devices or on library PCs. Viewing or displaying such material in a manner that is visible to other people in the building will be considered a violation of the library's behavior policy.

- Public computers in the Children's Room may only be used by children 12 and under, or by parents accompanying their children. Public computers in the Young Adult Room may only be used by teenagers between the ages of 12 and 19.

- Children 10 years old or younger are not permitted to use the computers in the Children's room to access the Internet without the presence of a parent or legal guardian. Parents are reminded that the library does not filter its Internet access.

- Parents are responsible for taking steps to educate themselves and their children on safe use of the Internet.

Patrons violating the above rules may have their internet access terminated and/or may be asked to leave the Library. Library staff are authorized to take prompt and appropriate actions to enforce the Public Internet Use Policy.

Approved by Library Trustees, March 2018