Charlton Public Library
Computer & Internet Policy

The Charlton Public Library offers free access to the internet which allows our patrons to connect to digital resources beyond the physical Library. The service is intended for independent use.

The Library has a responsibility to provide accurate materials and information presenting all points of view and supports access to all formats of material to meet the user's informational needs, regardless of the user's age or the content of the material. The Library endorses the American Library Association Bill of Rights and in particular the Access to Digital Resources and Services interpretation.

All users of electronic information resources are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner consistent with the educational and informational purposes for which they are provided. The Library assumes no responsibility for internet content, including information that may be inaccurate or dated.

Public workstations are shared and not private or secure. While the Library may employ software that helps clear history and browser data after use, patrons are advised that any information or data saved on Library computers may be accessible by others. Hotspots and public Wi-Fi are unsecure, wireless networks and any information sent or received could potentially be intercepted by other wireless users. Users are responsible for configuring their own device security settings. Users are strongly cautioned against transmitting their credit card information, passwords, and any other sensitive or personal information while using a public network.

Library staff are available to assist users in their general use of our electronic resources; however, they cannot provide in-depth technical support.

Computers in the Children's Room are intended for use by those under the age of 13; computers in the Teen area are intended for use by those under the age of 18; computers in the Adult area are intended for use by those ages 18 and up.

Prohibited Activities

- Use of the internet for illegal purposes which violates federal, state, or local laws.
- Infringement of the privacy of others by misrepresenting oneself.
- Unauthorized copying, file sharing, downloading or distributing commercial software or other copyright–protected works or material in any format (e.g., music, movies, or other audio or digital material) in violation of copyright laws.
- Attempting to gain access to or modify files, passwords, or data belonging to others.
- Transmission of spam, phishing, or malicious messages or software of any type.

- Unauthorized access to, or interference with, local or remote computers, devices, or networks.
- Damaging or altering hardware components or software network settings.
- Interference with other's use of computer workstations or guest internet access.
- Transmission or display of threatening, harassing, defamatory, or obscene materials.
- Deliberate attempts to circumvent data protection, security measures, or Library use policy.

The Library staff does not control or monitor material available on the internet. Parents and guardians, not the Library staff, are solely responsible for information accessed by their children. In compliance with the [Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)](#), technology filters may be applied to block or filter internet access to images that are: (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors (for computers that are accessed by minors).

Violation or abuse of the Library Computer and Internet Policy provisions may result in suspension of access privileges.

Adopted by the Board of Library Trustees at a public meeting, following public notice, on May 20, 2021.
Amended by the Board of Library Trustees on April 20, 2023.