



Chapin Memorial Library Child Computer Use Policy

Internet Filtering and Safety

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Library uses filtering software on all Internet-accessible computers. This software is designed to block visual depictions that are:

- Obscene,
- Constituting child pornography, or
- Harmful to minors (for users under age 17).

While filtering software is used to promote a safe digital environment, it is not perfect. Users should be aware of the following:

- Underblocking: Some inappropriate material may still be accessible.
- Overblocking: Some constitutionally protected and educational content may be inadvertently restricted.

The Library has selected filtering software to balance legal requirements with the broadest possible access to valuable information. However, the Library cannot guarantee that all harmful content will be blocked or that all appropriate content will be accessible.

Online Privacy for Children

Under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), commercial websites must obtain parental consent before collecting personal information from children under age 13. Chapin Memorial Library blocks access to known sites that violate this rule on computers in the Children's Services Department.

Children should avoid sharing personal information online and should always respect age-related restrictions posted on websites.

Social Media and Online Interaction

Today's children engage with the Internet in new and evolving ways — through social media platforms, video-sharing apps, blogs, chats, and online games. Activities like "friending," "liking," "commenting," and "streaming" are a regular part of their online experience.

Parents should be aware that:

- Social media platforms often collect user data and expose children to public interaction.
- Children may encounter cyberbullying, inappropriate content, or contact from strangers.
- The use of real names, photos, and location-sharing increases online risks.

We strongly recommend that parents talk with their children about responsible use of social media, privacy settings, and the importance of reporting inappropriate behavior or content.

Encourage open communication and set clear boundaries for online activity.



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For tips and best practices, staff can provide resources or direct parents to trusted guides such as Child Safety on the Information Highway (available online at consumer.ftc.gov).

Parental Responsibility

No filter can replace active parental supervision. Parents are ultimately responsible for their child's use of the Internet while at the Library.

We encourage parents and guardians to:

- Monitor online activity.
- Discuss Internet safety with their children.
- Use the Library's resources together whenever possible.

Library-Wide Internet Policy

The Chapin Memorial Library Technology Policy applies to all users and all departments.

The Library reserves the right to amend this policy at any time. A printed copy is available upon request, and the current policy is posted on the Library website.