

Library Guidelines

Supervision of Children in the Library



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL
The Heart of Gippsland

Wellington Shire Library Service welcomes all children to attend the library.

Library staff will always take due care and concern for young people in the library, however, they are unable to act as supervisors and must not be put in the position of acting parent or guardian. While in the library, parents and guardians are responsible for monitoring the activities and regulating the behaviour of their children. Responsibility for the welfare and behaviour of young people rests at all times with the parent, guardian or chaperone.

Parents must use their discretion in determining when their children are sufficiently mature and responsible to use the library unaccompanied by an adult. It is recommended children under the age of 13 should not be left without a parent/guardian at the library. Library staff have no authority to ensure that young people remain within the library and cannot be held responsible for any incidents that occur outside.

Library staff members will respond to guidelines in situations, such as;

- An unattended child is found frightened or crying in the library
- An unattended child is perceived to be endangering him or herself, or that another person in the library poses a perceived threat to the unattended child
- An unattended child exhibits inappropriate behaviour
- An unattended child has not been met by a responsible caregiver at closing time

After evaluating the situation, Library staff members will attempt to contact the parent or guardian. If parents/guardian are unable to be contacted, staff will contact the police.

