



## **TWEEN AND TEEN AREA USE POLICY**

Tweens and teens are an important part of the Newton community, and the Newton Free Library is committed to providing an inviting and safe space for tween and teen patrons to engage in individual and group activities.

Studies conducted by the American Library Association indicate that youth are more likely to use the library if there is a space specifically for them, due to the social nature and unique characteristics of this age group. In keeping with the American Library Association's National Teen Space Guidelines, the Library's Teen and Tween Area centralizes information and recreation resources for this age group in a safe, supportive, and positive space.

### **Policy Statement**

- The Tween and Teen Area is for people in or entering grades five through twelve, ages 10 to 18.
- Everyone is welcome to actively browse the Teen and Tween Collections and seek assistance from staff, but the use of furnishings, computers/technology, and the activity spaces are reserved exclusively for tweens and teens.
- Library staff reserves the right to require individuals not in or entering grades five through twelve to use the facilities, services and equipment in other age-appropriate sections of the Library. Staff will provide reasonable accommodations, including but not limited to extending the Tween and Teen Area to adults providing assistive services and to individuals older than 18 for whom the Tween and Teen Area is developmentally appropriate.
- Tutoring is not permitted in the Tween and Teen Area. Study rooms and other seating arrangements are available elsewhere in the Library (such as study rooms, carrels and tables).

-Approved by the Board of Library Trustees on May 23, 2018; Amended on September 20, 2023.