**HIGH PRAIRIE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY**

**BYLAW AND POLICY MANUAL**

**POLICY C-9**

**UNATTENDED AND DISRUPTIVE CHILDREN**

**Policy**

*The conduct & safety of children left unattended at the Library are a concern. If left unattended when no library programs are being offered, children can disturb the enjoyment of others, or injure themselves. It is not the Library’s responsibility to supervise, or babysit children.*

**GUIDELINES**

Parents/guardians are responsible for the behaviour of their children while in the library. Children under the age of twelve (12) may not be left alone, or unsupervised in the library. Should a child under the age of twelve (12) be left unattended, library staff will walk with them around the library to locate their parent/guardian. If a parent/guardian is found, they will be made aware of this policy, and given a warning. If a guardian cannot be found in the library or reached by telephone to come and get the child, staff will call the police to ensure the child’s safety.

Children aged 12 to 17 are also defined as unattended in this policy if they are unable to care for themselves or to refrain from disruptive behaviour when left without adult supervision.

Disruptive behaviour is any noisy, boisterous, or acting-out behaviour inappropriate in a library setting. It includes running, jumping on furniture, throwing, or defacing library property, using loud voices, or other behaviour that infringes on the rights of other patrons and staff. Disruptive children will be warned that behaviour must cease, that a guardian will be notified, their name will be noted, and that they will be evicted from the library for the rest of the day, or in the case of repeat behaviour, for an extended period.

In order to insure the safety of children under the age of 12 left unattended after closing, staff may wait with the child for 15 minutes, after which time, if no guardian has arrived, library staff will call the police.

CHAIR: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF APPROVAL: \_\_\_November 16, 2013\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_June 4, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_