

BYELAWS made under Section 19 of THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS ACT 1964 by the MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND BURGESSES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY, acting by the Council.

1. In these Byelaws, unless the context otherwise requires: -
 - a) "the Act" means the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964;
 - b) "the Library Authority" means the Council of the London Borough of Bexley;
 - c) "library" means any library, museum or art gallery for the time being maintained by the Library Authority for the purposes of its functions under the Act and includes a vehicle when being used for those purposes;
 - d) "the Librarian" means the person appointed as such by the Library Authority or, in his absence, any other person authorised by the Library Authority to act on his behalf;
 - e) "Library officer" means the librarian, museum officer or art gallery officer or any other person employed by the Library Authority for the purposes of its functions under the act;
 - f) "book" included any and every book, journal, pamphlet, music score, manuscript, picture, print, photograph, engraving, etching, deed, map, chart, plan, gramophone record, film and any other article of a like nature whatsoever forming part of the contents of the Library or lent to any person by or on behalf of the Library Authority;
 - g) "object" includes any and every article forming part of the contents of the museum or art gallery or lent to any person by or on behalf of the Library Authority.
2. An act necessary for the proper execution of his duty by a library officer shall not be deemed to be a contravention of these Byelaws.
3. A person shall not give a false name or address for the purpose of entering any part of the library or for the purpose of using any facilities provided in connection therewith.
4. A person who is offensively unclean in person or in dress, or who is suffering from an offensive disease, shall not enter or use the library.
5. Except with the consent of a library officer, a person shall not
 - a) cause or allow any dog other than a guide-dog accompanying a blind person or other animal belonging to him or under his control to enter or remain in the library or
 - b) bring into any part of the library a wheeled vehicle or conveyance other than a hand-propelled invalid chair.
6. A person shall not, after proper warning by a library officer, remain in the library after the time fixed for its closing.
7. A person shall not, unless duly authorised, take any book or object from the library.
8. A person shall not soil, tear, cut, deface, damage, injure or destroy any book or object or the furniture, fittings, fabric or contents of the library.
9. Except with the consent of a library officer a person shall not make a tracing of any portion of a book or photograph, draw, paint or otherwise copy any object in the library.
10. A person who –
 - a) after the end of the period for which it was lent has the charge or possession of a book or object borrowed from the Library or from any body or person acting on behalf of the Library Authority, and
 - b) after having been requested in writing by the Library Authority to deliver it up to that Authority, has failed to do so within a period of fourteen days after the date of the request, and
 - c) has not paid to the Library Authority in respect thereof an agreed sum by way of compensationshall not, except with the consent of the Librarian, borrow any further book or object from the library.
11. A person from whom any sum is due to the Library Authority by reason of a charge made under Section 8(2) of the Act in respect of failure to return a book or object before the end of the period for which it was lent shall not, except with the consent of the Librarian, borrow any book or object from the Library after having been notified in writing by the Library Authority of the amount due.

12. i) A person having the charge or possession of any book or object which the Library Authority is entitled to have returned to it shall deliver it up to the Librarian within fourteen days of the service upon him by the authority of a notice requiring him so to do.
 - ii) For the purpose of this Byelaw, a notice may be served upon any person by delivering it to him or by leaving it at his usual or last known place of residence or by sending it by registered post or recorded delivery service addressed to him at that place.
13. A person shall not behave in a disorderly manner in the library or use violent, abusive or obscene language therein.
14. A person shall not spit or expectorate in the library.
15. A person shall not, after a warning by a library officer, persist in sleeping in the library.
16. A person shall not engage in audible conversation in any part of the library set apart as a reference department or for reading after having been requested not to do so by a library officer.
17. A person shall not wilfully disturb, obstruct, interrupt or annoy any other person in the proper use of the library.
18. A person shall not display, distribute, affix or post any bill, placard or notice in, to or upon any part of the library.
19. A person shall not, without the consent of the Librarian, entreat, tout, canvas, solicit or offer anything for sale or hire in the library whether for gain or otherwise.
20. A person shall not lie on the furniture or fittings of the library or on the floor thereof except, with the consent of the Librarian on the floor of any part of the library for the time being set apart for the use of children.
21. A person shall not smoke or strike a light or produce or cause a naked flame in any part of the library set apart for the use of the public, except in any part thereof which is for the time being used as a restaurant or in which, when it is being used for an educational, cultural or other event under Section 20 of the Act, the Library Authority allows smoking.
22. A person shall not, except with the consent of a library officer, either eat or drink in the library, except in any part thereof which is for the time being used as a restaurant or in which when it is being used for an educational, cultural or other event under Section 20 of the Act, the Library Authority allows the partaking of refreshments.
23. Except with the consent of the Librarian a person shall not cause or allow any apparatus for the reception of sound broadcasting or for the recording or reproduction of sound to be operated in any part of the library set apart for the use of the public.
24. Every person who shall offend against any of the foregoing Byelaws other than Byelaws 10 and 11 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the sum of twenty pounds [currently amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1982 Section 46 to £500.00].
25. Every person who, within the view of a library officer, contravenes any of the foregoing Byelaws may be excluded or removed from the library by such officer if: -
 - a) his name and address are unknown to and cannot readily be ascertained by the officer; or
 - b) from the nature of the contravention or from any other fact of which the officer may have knowledge or be credibly informed there is reasonable ground for belief that his continuance in the library may result in another contravention of the Byelaws or that his exclusion or removal from the library is otherwise necessary for the proper use and regulation thereof.
26. On the coming into operation of these Byelaws, the Byelaws relating to libraries which were made by the Borough of Bexley on the 3rd day of July 1958, and were confirmed by the Minister of Education on the 11th day of September 1958, and the Byelaws relating to libraries which were made by the Urban District Council of Erith on the 8th day of June 1934 and were confirmed by the Board of Education on the 15th day of June 1934, shall be revoked.