

## Library Noise Policy

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### 1. Preamble

The Library is a welcoming and congenial destination for all members of the Saint Mary's University community. Because it is the primary research centre on campus, the Library strives to be a place where all students, faculty and staff will find an environment conducive to how they like to work.

### 2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of this policy is to inform the Library's users of our expectations regarding permissible noise levels and to guide them in their compliance with this policy.

### 3. Jurisdiction/scope

3.1. The ground floor of the Library is an open space, adjacent to the Atrium and Global Learning Commons. It is home to the Library's service desks, public computers, printers, photocopiers, and scanners. This floor has a variety of study spaces, including group study rooms, group tables and individual seating. The ground floor also serves as a conduit to the upper floors.

3.2. The 2nd and 3rd floors are designated as Quiet Zones, and provide individual seating in study carrels and armchairs, and a limited number of desktop computer terminals.

## 4. Definitions

- 4.1. **Moderate and respectful noise:** Speaking at a medium volume level, or at a volume that matches that of nearby library patrons if there is high ambient sound. Social interaction which is not disruptive nor disturbing to other patrons in the Library.
- 4.2. **Quiet Zone:** No talking or other noise permitted.

## 5. Policy

- 5.1. Moderate and respectful noise is permitted on the ground floor of the Library.
- 5.2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the library are designated Quiet Zones.
- 5.3. Users of the Library are asked to be considerate of the needs of others and to be conscious of the impact their behavior may have on those around them. Consistent with the Saint Mary's University Student Code of Conduct, library staff will ask anyone making disruptive noise or disturbing others to refrain from doing so.
- 5.4. If such behavior persists, University Security will be called, and the offender will be required to leave the Library.

## 6. Related Policies, Procedures and Documents

- 6.1. Policies
  - [Student Code of Conduct](#)

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## General Information

- **Approving Authority:** University Librarian
- **Approved:** November 2017
- **Responsible Office:** Access Services
- **Responsibility:** Manager, Access Services
- **Revision Date(s):** May 2025, October 2021

- **Next Required Review:** Every two years, or as required