

# Inspection Top Tips

Online Safety

March 2025

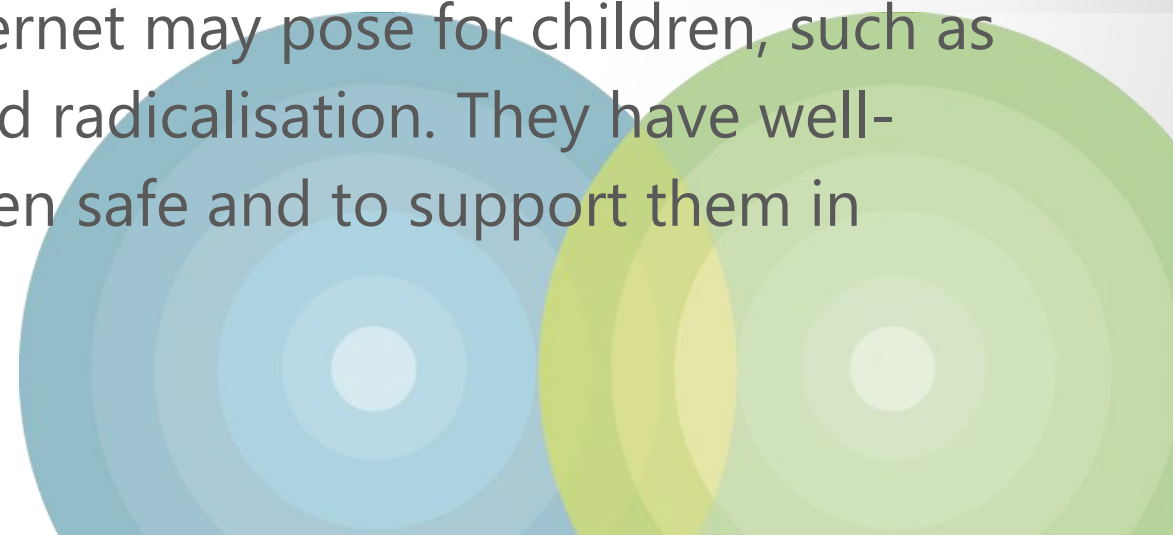


# Guide to Children's Homes Regulations

Children should have access to a computer and the internet to support their education and learning, unless there are specific safeguarding reasons why this would be inappropriate. In such cases, the home should consider whether and how it can support the child to access a computer and the internet safely.

## Children's Homes SCCIF

Staff understand the risks that using the internet may pose for children, such as bullying, sexual and criminal exploitation and radicalisation. They have well-developed strategies in place to keep children safe and to support them in learning how to keep themselves safe.



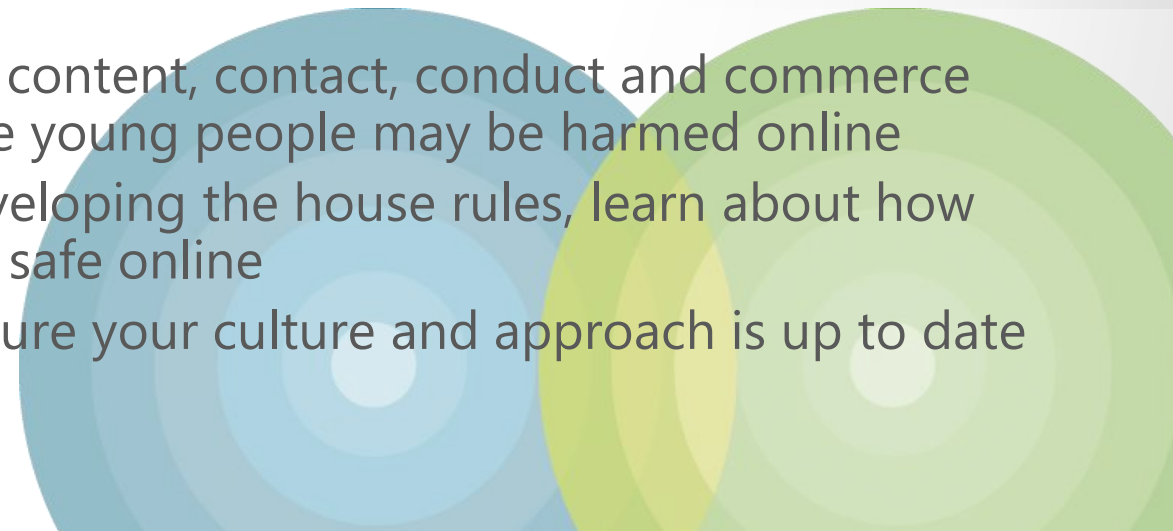
"...the child only accesses the internet when supervised. However, the manager does not ensure that staff help the child to understand the risks associated with being online. This increases the child's vulnerability to exploitation."

# Top tips...

It's hard to keep up with the world of online safety. Build confidence across your staff team by providing the right information, adding to team meetings, empowering young people to share their ideas and identifying a lead to champion safeguarding in your home

## **What you can do...**

1. Develop a clear online safety policy setting out your approach, including for social media and chatrooms
2. Have in place the proper infrastructure to keep information secure and to filter and monitor content
3. Staff are regularly trained and updated so they feel confident in their roles and responsibilities
4. Your setting effectively manages the risks around content, contact, conduct and commerce and staff know how to respond to incidents where young people may be harmed online
5. Young people understand and are involved in developing the house rules, learn about how to use the internet helpfully and keep themselves safe online
6. Leaders & managers have systems in place to ensure your culture and approach is up to date and effective



# Top tips continued...

## **Identify and train an online safety lead**

Even Registered Managers can't do everything! Do you have someone in your team with leadership potential and an interest or knowledge in things online? Delegating this role and including the above responsibilities in the role description gives you really measurable indicators of progress, including the outcomes of online safety audits, and means leaders and managers understand what to do.

## **Training for online safety leads**

Please visit [www.dialogueltd.co.uk/online-safety](http://www.dialogueltd.co.uk/online-safety) for the specialist course for residential providers we've commissioned from SWGfL - a national online safety charity and founding member of the UK Safer Internet Centre. Our introductory level will give you the basics which we then plan to build on going forward.

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