

Inspection Top Tips

Privacy

January 2026



Children's Homes Regulations

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The registered person must ensure that -

- (a) the privacy of children is appropriately protected;
- (c) any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises -
 - (i) is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home;
 - (iv) allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe.

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Regulation 21

Children's Homes Guide

3.10 Just as in a family home, children should be able to access all shared areas of their home unless there are specific reasons why this would not meet a child's needs. Limits on privacy and access may only be put in place to safeguard each child in the home (regulation 21(c)(i)).



Children's Homes SCCIF Key Elements

- Staff place the well-being of individual children at the centre of their practice, irrespective of the challenges they may present.
- Their day-to-day needs are met, such as routine, privacy, personal space...
- The records are available to children who are able to see or contribute to them as they wish, with appropriate support.
- In homes with children who need personal care whether children's intimate care needs are met sensitively and their rights to privacy are respected.
- Any searches of children or their rooms and possessions are carried out sensitively by appropriately trained staff with due consideration given to their need to feel safe and to have their dignity and needs respected.

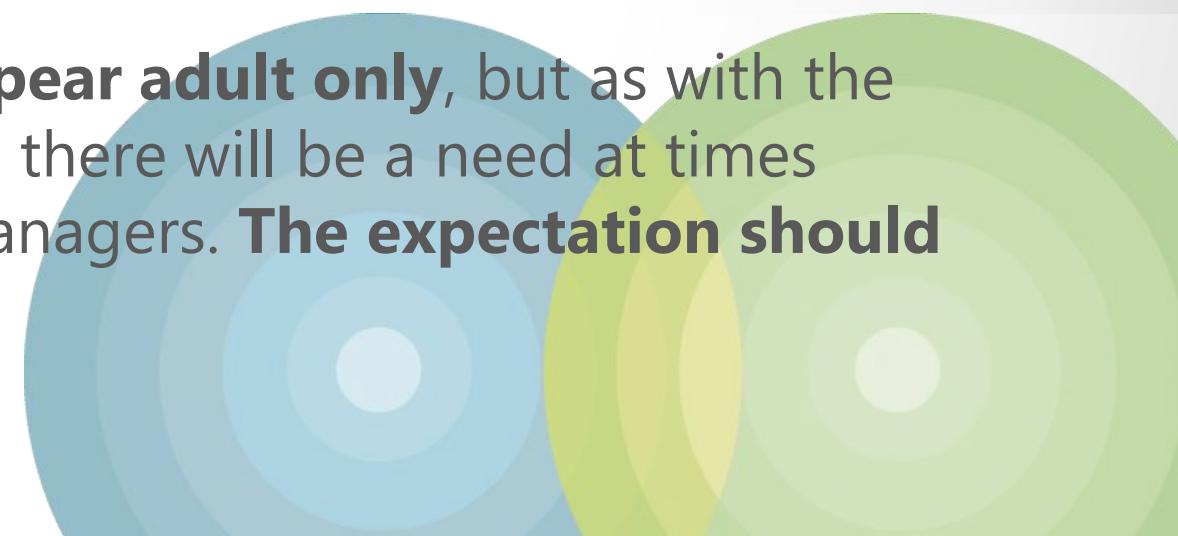


Ofsted comment from inspection – Outstanding

Staff promote young people's privacy by respecting their private space when using their bedrooms or requesting time alone. Records are securely stored and staff are clear on how to keep information confidential. Therefore, the young peoples' privacy is respected and information confidentially handled.

Top Tips...

- 1. Privacy is about giving children and young people personal space and respect, while still keeping them safe.**
- 2. Ensure that a child has private spaces in bedrooms and bathrooms and that these are spaces where children can feel safe.**
- 3. Ensure that information about a child is kept private with personal details and records being kept confidential but support children to contribute to and be aware of the information held on them.**
- 4. Provide private spaces where children are able to talk or spend time alone without unnecessary intrusion.**
- 5. Avoid any spaces in the home that appear adult only, but as with the need for children to have private spaces, there will be a need at times when this is the case for the staff and managers. The expectation should be mutual respect for others privacy.**



Questions to consider...

- Does the home provide private spaces for children which is not just their room?
- Is information about each child kept confidential but children supported to know what is being written about them?
- Is the home set out in a way where children feel able to access all areas but with an understanding that all in the home will need to have private time?
- Does the culture of the home reflect a sense of personal privacy where adults will model behaviour around respecting the privacy of others?

