

# Inspection Top Tips

Gaming

February 2026



# Children's Homes Regulations



The enjoyment and achievement standard is that children take part in and benefit from a variety of activities that meet their needs and develop and reflect their creative, cultural, intellectual, physical and social interests and skills

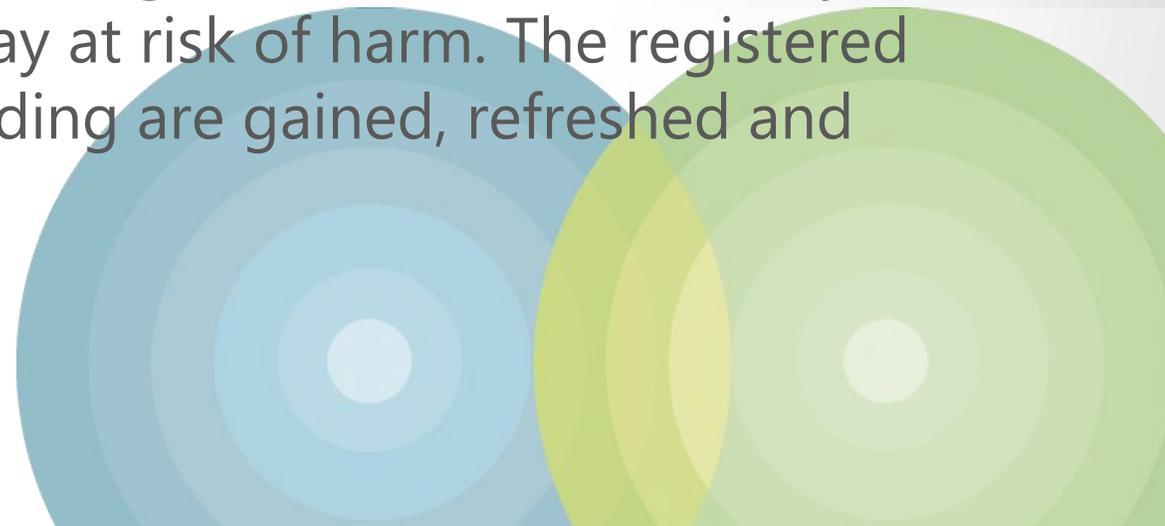
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.



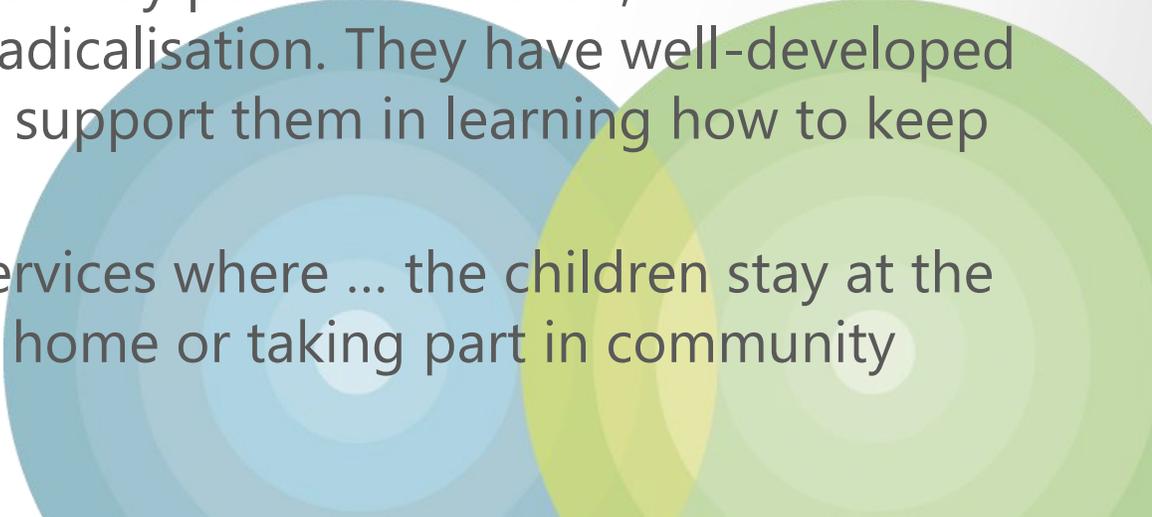
# Children's Homes Guide

**6.4** Children's homes staff should seek to identify and provide appropriate opportunities for children to develop themselves in accordance with their wishes and feelings and as part of the home's plan for their care.... with children selecting activities based on their personal preferences and abilities, so far as is reasonable.

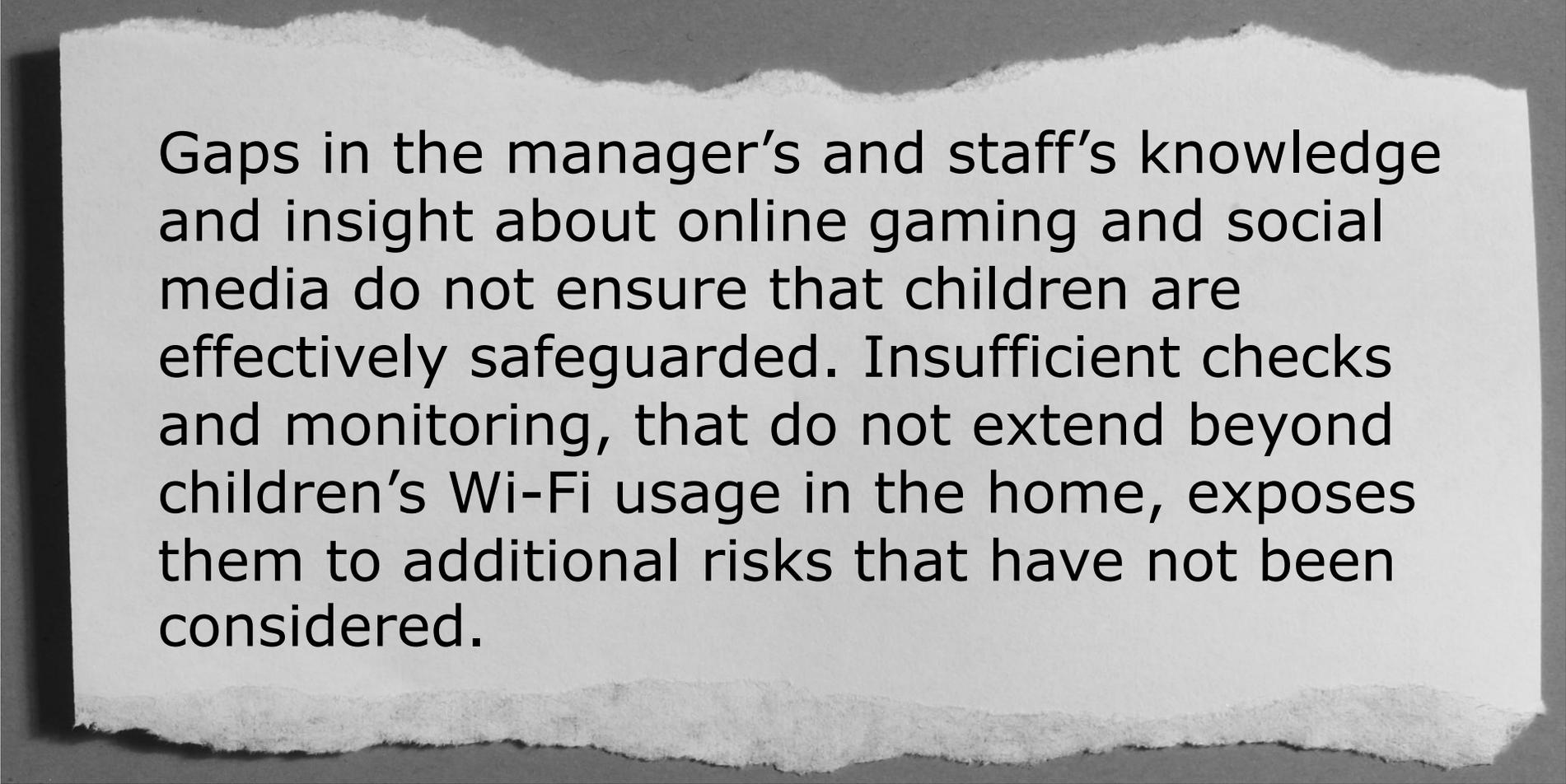
**9.12** Staff need the knowledge and skills to recognise and be alert for any signs that might indicate a child is in any way at risk of harm. The registered person should ensure that skills in safeguarding are gained, refreshed and recorded in the homes workforce plan.



# Children's Homes SCCIF Key Elements

- Children's rights are respected and promoted. Irrespective of any disability they may have, children enjoy access to a range of social, educational and recreational opportunities
  - Children feel protected and are protected from harm, including from neglect, abuse, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, accidents, self-harm, bullying and radicalisation.
  - There is a strong and proactive response from all those working with children that reduces actual harm or the risk of harm to them, including from self-harm.
  - 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.
  - Closed cultures are more likely to develop in services where ... the children stay at the setting for long periods of time, without going home or taking part in community activities
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## Ofsted comment from inspection – Requires Improvement

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Gaps in the manager's and staff's knowledge and insight about online gaming and social media do not ensure that children are effectively safeguarded. Insufficient checks and monitoring, that do not extend beyond children's Wi-Fi usage in the home, exposes them to additional risks that have not been considered.

# Top Tips...

1. **Act as any parent would...** think about caring, age-appropriate boundaries and don't feel concerned about holding tight to these. Make sure young people have fun and also get the balance of fun from lots of different sources
2. **Set expectations early...** create helpful information before young people come to your home for them and their parents. Talk about these during visits and with young people regularly. Create trust with parents so they don't accidentally undermine you.
3. **Encourage children to only communicate with people they know in real life** or to talk to you about who they are in contact with. Ensure staff can identify concerns.
4. **Teach them never to share personal information** (full name, school, address, phone number, discuss use of cameras) and **make sure they know to block and report anyone who makes them uncomfortable** to you and online.
5. **Know the game & when they're playing** - Check its age rating (e.g., PEGI ratings), what chat facilities are there, what inter-player audio functionality is included, what user-generated elements are there, how do 'loot boxes' work, what about payments for coins etc.
6. **Watch gameplay videos or play the game yourself to understand the approaches, the potential risks and anticipate the outcome on the young person** (but be careful not to win too often when playing with the young person)

# Online Safety Residential Leads (Level 1) Training...

The risks associated with an ever expanding online world are significant, but how do we ensure that children and young people can embrace new technology whilst remaining safe? Aimed at anyone working with children and young people in residential settings and wanting to expand their knowledge of current issues in online safety, this course considers where the risks lie and how to work with children and young people to keep safe online.

Our online safety training session provided by SWGfL is designed for professionals working with young people in residential settings, to familiarise themselves with the current online safety landscape, covering technologies and the behaviours that develop around them. We will provide an overview of current trends, threats and issues as well as outlining statutory obligations and signposting useful resources and support.

## Next dates:

Our next training date is on **19th May 2026, running 9:30am – 4pm.**

This course is delivered via zoom, costs £132+vat, reduced to **£99+vat for members.**

You can book on to this course using the link below:

[Online Safety Residential Leads \(Level 1\)](#)

