

Inspection Top Tips

Behaviour Management Recording

March 2026

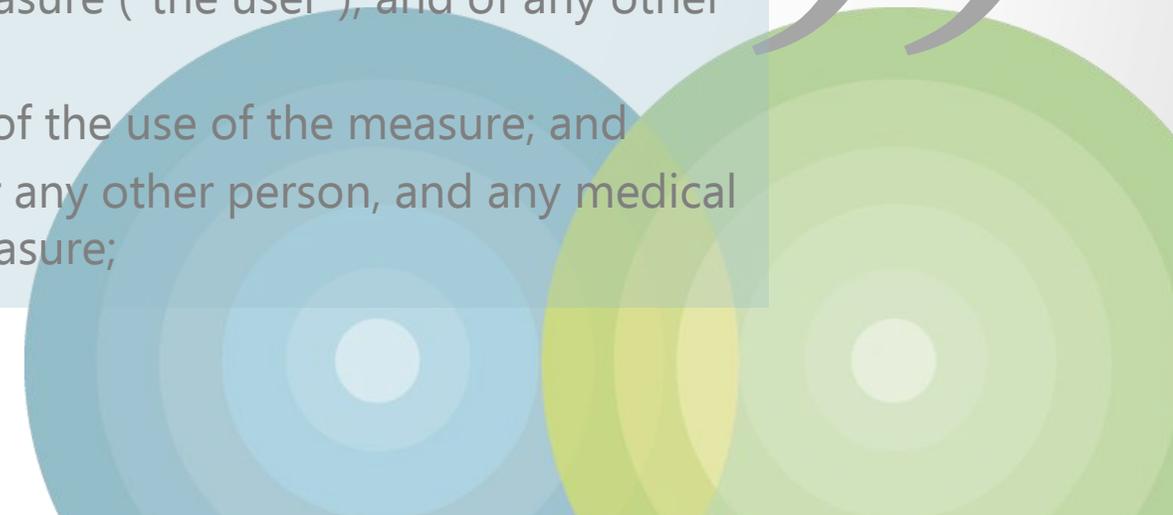


Children's Homes Regulations



(3) The registered person must ensure that -

- (a) within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes—
 - (i) the name of the child;
 - (ii) details of the child's behaviour leading to the use of the measure;
 - (iii) the date, time and location of the use of the measure;
 - (iv) a description of the measure and its duration;
 - (v) details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure;
 - (vi) the name of the person who used the measure ("the user"), and of any other person present when the measure was used;
 - (vii) the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure; and
 - (viii) a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure;



Children's Homes Regulations



20 (1) Restraint in relation to a child is only permitted for the purpose of preventing—

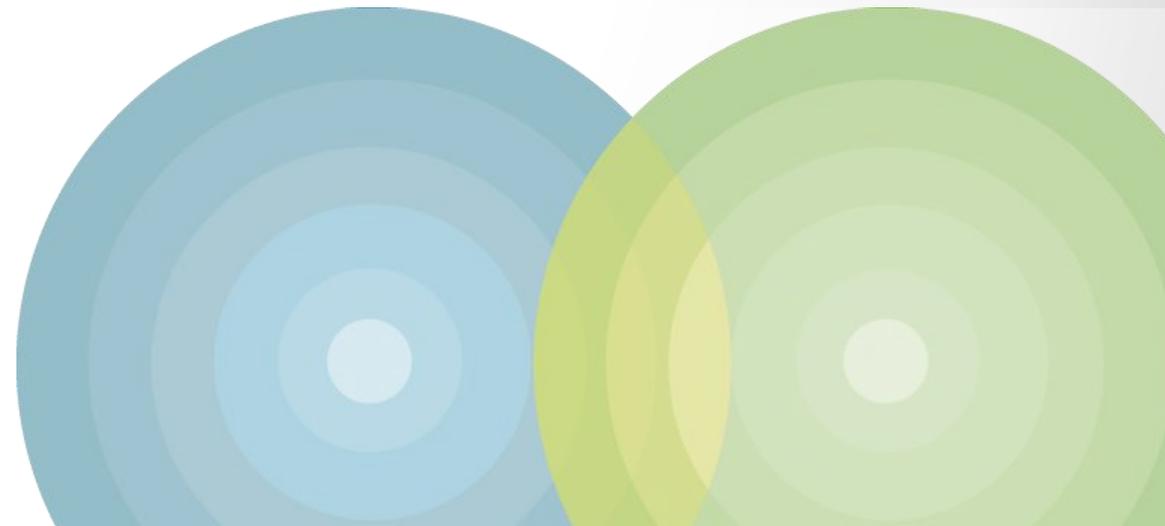
- (a) injury to any person (including the child);
- (b) serious damage to the property of any person (including the child); or
- (c) a child who is accommodated in a secure children's home from absconding from the home

(2) Restraint in relation to a child must be necessary and proportionate.



Children's Homes Guide

9.36 The registered person should ensure that all incidents of control, discipline and restraint are subject to systems of regular scrutiny to ensure that their use is fair and the above principles as set out in 9.35 are respected.



Link to the guidance...



Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations including the quality standards

April 2015



Guidance

Positive environments where children can flourish

Updated 6 October 2021

Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Our approach](#)

[Understanding culture and practice](#)

[Physical restraint](#)

[Restrictions on children's liberty](#)

[Types of restriction](#)

[Residential special schools and children's homes with education](#)

[Recording](#)

[Use of isolation and seclusion in schools](#)

[Summary](#)

[Annex A: Single separation in secure children's homes](#)

[Annex B: European Convention on Human Rights](#)

[Annex C: References](#)

Introduction

Inspectors should use this guidance to evaluate how providers, managers and carers create a positive environment where children can live and learn and where staff interact positively with children. This guidance applies to all social care inspections and to the inspection of schools. [\[footnote 1\]](#)

While the principles we set out are important and apply to all children, inspectors should pay particular attention to settings that provide care or education for children who have neuro-disability, communication support needs or special educational needs.

This guidance is not a summary of the law or guidance on the area of physical intervention and restriction of liberty. This is about an approach to inspection.

Our approach

Restraint of any kind can have a negative impact on a child's mental health [\[footnote 2\]](#) and damage relationships between children and those who care for them.

All behaviour is a form of communication. Those who care for children have a duty to

Children's Homes SCCIF Key Elements

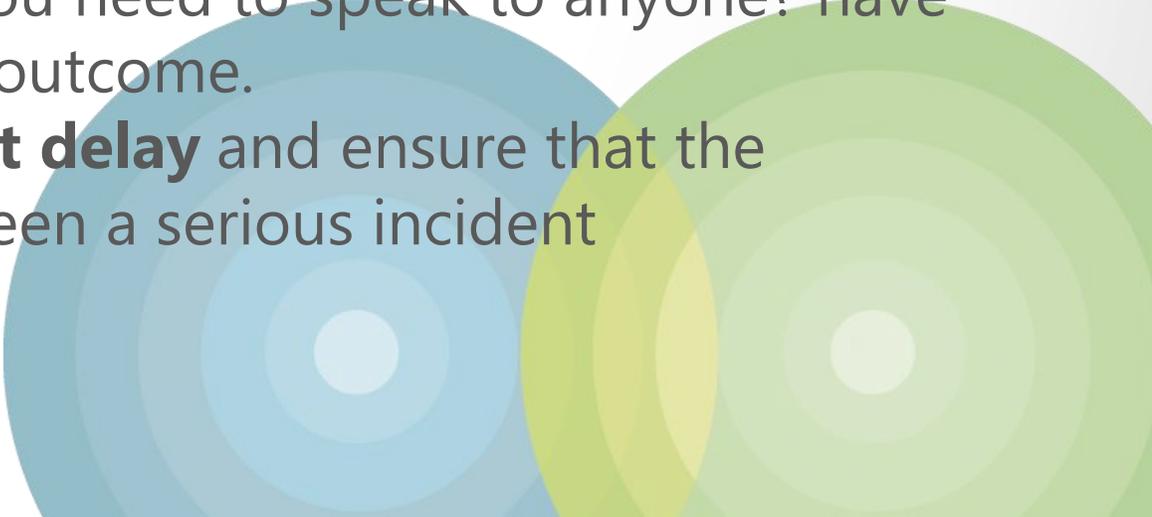
- Children receive help and support to manage their behaviour and feelings safely. Staff understand children's experiences, respond with appropriate boundaries about what is safe and acceptable for each child and seek to understand the triggers for behaviour.
- Positive behaviour is consistently promoted. Staff use effective de-escalation techniques and creative alternative strategies that are specific to the needs of each child and planned in consultation with them where possible.
- Restraint or restrictive practice are used only when necessary to protect the child and/or those around them and must be proportionate. All incidents are recorded, reviewed and monitored by leaders. The views of the child, dependent on their age and understanding, are sought and understood.
- Conflict management is effective and includes the appropriate use of restorative practices that improve relationships, increase children's sense of personal responsibility and reduce the need for formal police intervention.



Ofsted comment from inspection – Requires Improvement

...Although incidents of physical restraint are seldom, a recent incident and subsequent lack of recording presents concerns about how restraint procedures are monitored and young people's welfare safeguarded. A serious incident, resulting in significant physical restraint is recorded in the daily log and on an incident report... The central log for physical restraint is not complete. ...The incident report is also incomplete. There is no record regarding the effectiveness of the restraint. No record regarding young people's perceptions of restraint and the manager has not signed to confirm that incidents are monitored.

Top Tips...

1. **Check the staff member recorded exactly what they saw and heard**
 2. **Is it language that cares?** Avoid using language such as “attention seeking” or “aggressive”; instead describe the behaviour (e.g., “shouted loudly and pushed chair backwards”).
 3. **Use direct quotes where relevant to evidence the interactions.**
 4. **Check the details match the regulation**
 5. **Detail what happened before, during and after the incident.** Examine the debriefs. Think about whether they’re sufficient
 6. **Review this** – does it stand alone? do you need to speak to anyone? have you documented actions taken and the outcome.
 7. **Report safeguarding concerns without delay** and ensure that the regulator is informed where there has been a serious incident
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Reg40 Serious Incidents Reporting bitesize...

There's a duty on providers to notify Ofsted of serious incidents, but when is serious "serious"?

Our bite-size sessions explores the regulation, draws on experience and additional clarifications, and follows the process through from incident to evidencing the learning required for good practice in difficult times.

Next dates:

Our next bitesize date is on **20th April 2026, running 10am-11am.**

This one-hour bitesize training session is being delivered online for FREE and open to non-members also.

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

[Serious Incidents - Dialogue](#)

