



Caldecott Foundation Bedrooms Policy

Updated 2025: In Line with Ofsted and Care Industry Standards

1. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This policy is informed by:

- The Quality and Purpose of Care Standard (Children's Homes Regulations 2015);
- Children's Homes (England) Regulations and Guide;
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018);
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012;
- Surveillance Camera Code of Conduct (Home Office, 2013);
- Care Standards Act 2000;
- Children and Families Act 2014.

2. BEDROOM FURNITURE, FACILITIES, AND PERSONALISATION

2.1 Children's bedrooms must be furnished and decorated to a high, homely standard that reflects the child's individual preferences, developmental needs, and emotional wellbeing.

2.2 Children must be actively encouraged and supported to personalise their rooms with appropriate posters, furnishings, and belongings. This supports autonomy, identity development, and a sense of ownership.

2.3 Where age-appropriate, young people should be involved in choosing and purchasing decorations or furnishings, as part of life skills and independence preparation.

2.4 Rooms **must** be free from institutional features and designed to support comfort, dignity, and trauma-informed care principles.

3. BEDROOM SECURITY, STORAGE, AND PRIVACY

3.1 Children must have secure storage for personal belongings, including confidential items or medication (where appropriate).

3.2 Bedroom doors may be fitted with locks, and children should be issued with keys where appropriate and safe. Access to rooms by staff must respect privacy while fulfilling safeguarding obligations.

3.3 Staff must knock and request permission before entering a child's bedroom. This expectation is only overridden by immediate safeguarding needs.

3.4 All staff must follow Caldecott's Lone Working and Safe Care Policies, including documenting and risk-assessing any unplanned bedroom access.

4. STAFF PRESENCE AND SETTLING AT BEDTIME

4.1 Bedtime routines form a vital part of emotional support and must be delivered consistently by staff familiar to the child. Staff must:

- Be guided by each child's Placement Plan and Safe Care Plan;
- Use calming, structured routines suitable for the child's emotional and sensory needs;
- Avoid prolonged or unstructured time in bedrooms unless agreed in the plan;
- Notify another staff member when entering a child's room, especially at night.

4.2 Plans must include:

- Who delivers the settling routine;
- Time limits and expected activities;
- Any known risks, trauma triggers, or child preferences;
- Procedures for changes due to illness, distress, or behaviour concerns.

4.3 All bedtime routines and exceptions must be recorded in the child's file and reviewed regularly in line with the home's monitoring framework.

5. UNPLANNED ROOM ACCESS & SEARCHES

5.1 Unplanned entry (e.g., welfare checks) must be clearly risk-assessed, logged, and discussed with the child afterward in a developmentally appropriate way.

5.2 Bedroom searches should follow the Searching Children's Bedrooms Procedure and must always balance safety with dignity.

6. ROOM SHARING AND VISITORS

6.1 Each child must have their own private bedroom.

6.2 Overnight visitors (e.g., friends or siblings) are only permitted under strict conditions:

- Agreed by the placing authority and parents/carers (if appropriate);
- Risk assessed and documented in the Placement Plan;
- Based on the wishes and feelings of the child and reviewed periodically.

7. ALARMS AND MONITORING DEVICES

7.1 No visual surveillance (e.g., CCTV) is used in bedrooms or any other area of the home.

7.2 Entry/exit monitoring (e.g., silent door alarms) may be used under these conditions:

- Outlined in the Statement of Purpose;
- Approved in writing by the placing authority;
- Reviewed as part of the child's care and risk plan;
- Clearly explained to the child, with respect for dignity and privacy.

7.3 Usage must be logged, justified, and subject to multi-agency review to prevent unnecessary intrusion.

Review and Sign-Off

This policy must be reviewed annually or in line with regulatory updates. Any changes must be approved by the Responsible Individual and shared with staff, children, and relevant professionals.

8. POLICIES THAT SUPPORT THIS DOCUMENT

<https://caldecottch.trixonline.co.uk/chapter/searching-childrens-bedrooms>
<https://caldecottch.trixonline.co.uk/chapter/restrictive-physical-intervention>
<https://caldecottch.trixonline.co.uk/chapter/sleeping-in-and-home-security>

For further advice, contact: Safeguarding Lead / Registered Manager