

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)

Policy Statement

Easy Read

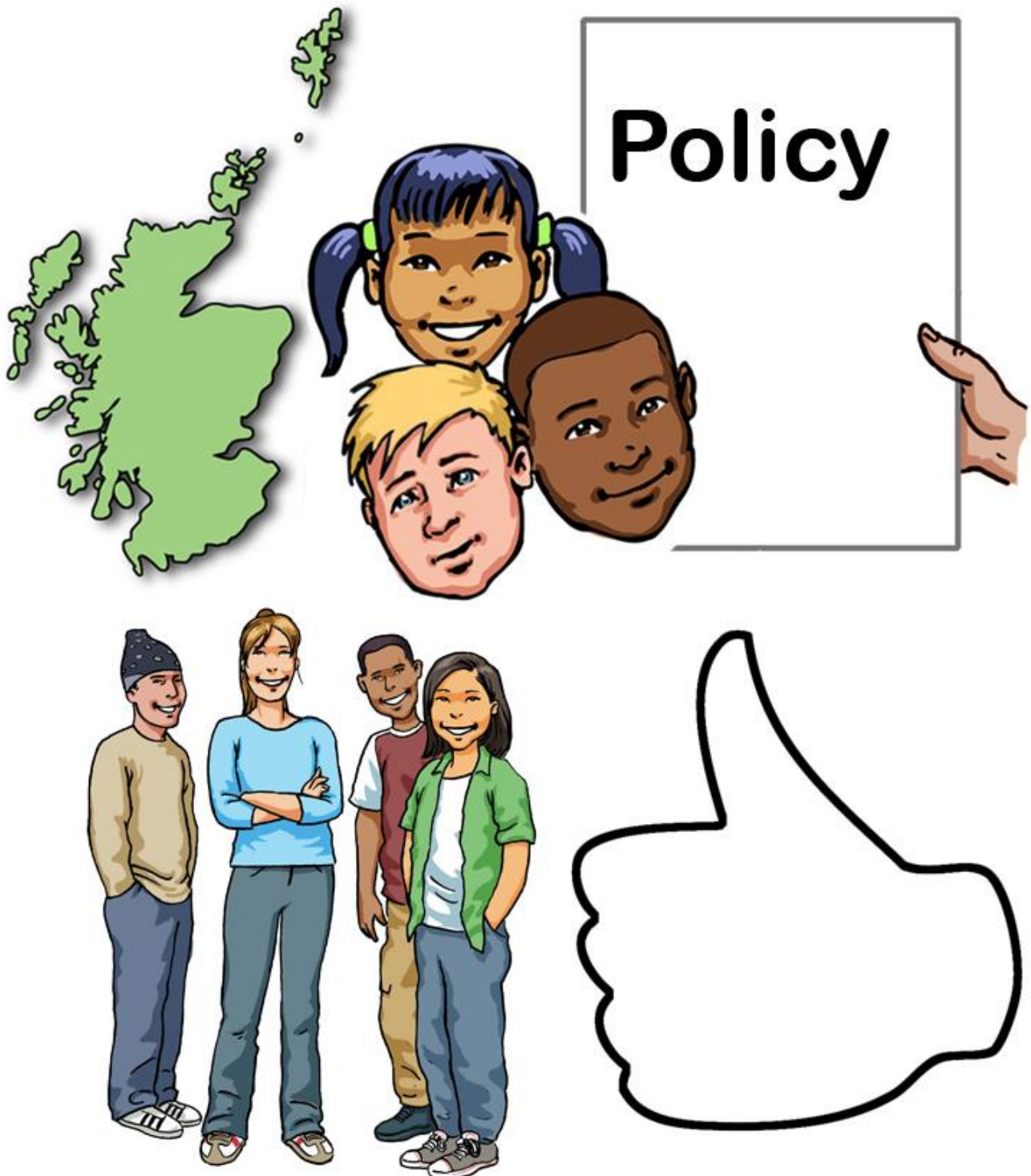
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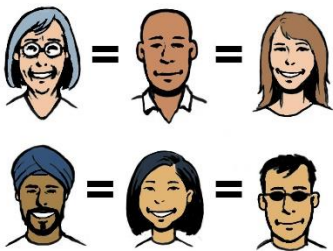


Easy Read Version

Introduction



The Scottish Government want to make Scotland the best place to grow up. Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) encourages everyone to work together to help children and young people.



Through GIRFEC, children and young people should grow up loved, safe and respected so they reach their full potential. We want all children and young people to live in an equal society. They should be treated with kindness, dignity and respect.



GIRFEC is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This is a global agreement to protect children. Children and young people are citizens in their own right. Their human rights are set in all areas of life.



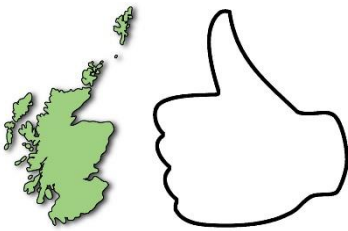
GIRFEC should be central to all our policies and services. It gives Scotland a plan to support and protect the wellbeing of children and young people.



Wellbeing is how a child or young person is doing at a point in time and whether they need any support.



A child or young person is an individual who is not yet 18 years old. We want to make services the best they can be for babies, infants, children, young people and their families.



The Scottish Government understands that GIRFEC can help the whole country to become a better place to live in.



This document explains to workers how GIRFEC can be used. Workers need to have the skills, knowledge and understanding to deliver GIRFEC. They need to make sure children, young people and families understand how their rights are protected.

Law and policy



We have aims for Scotland. GIRFEC adds to the aim that all children grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential.

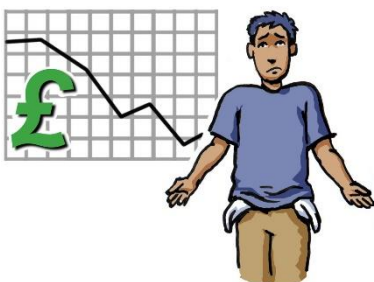
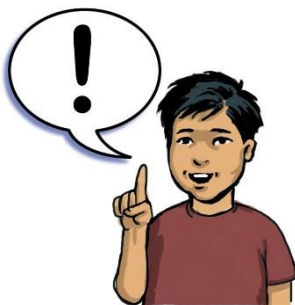


Children's rights and wellbeing are linked. Where a child's rights are protected their wellbeing should improve. Where a child's wellbeing is good they are able to enjoy their rights.



There are 4 Principles of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This is a global agreement to protect children

- Non-discrimination
- Best interests of the child
- Right to life, survival and development
- Respect for the views of the child



It links to preventing child poverty. We must work together to help increase families incomes and reduce costs. We need to make sure families have the money they need to thrive.



The Independent Care Review says what changes are needed for services. It says they should centre around people to make a country that cares.



We are working so services:

- are shaped around children, young people and families
- meet the needs of children, young people and families
- listen to care experiences of children and young adults

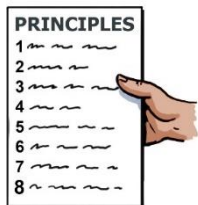


We want to improve results for all children and young people. Local services should be joined up. They should focus on supporting children and young people's wellbeing. Support should be offered early.



GIRFEC has been used across Scotland for many years. It is about acting early to help children and young people.

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GIRFEC has key principles:

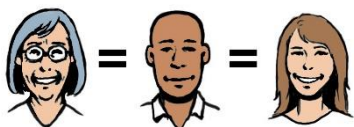


- The child, young person and family are at the centre of all work and decisions that affect them

- Work together with families



- Understand that wellbeing is about all areas of life including family



- Value difference and treat everyone fairly



- Tackle inequality



- Give support to children, young people and families when they need it



- Everyone works together locally and across Scotland to make things better for children, young people and families

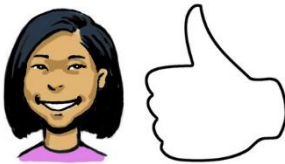


GIRFEC improves the wellbeing of children and young people. It does this by providing support if needed.

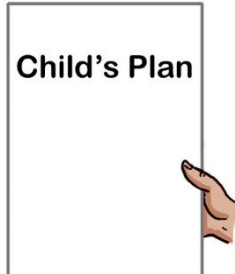
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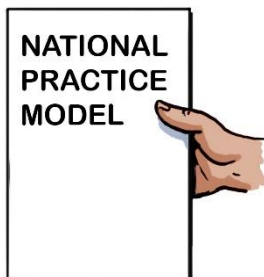
- a named person who is a clear point of contact for support and advice.



- a full understanding of wellbeing and a model for all to follow.



- Planned support across all services. This can be managed by the lead professional.

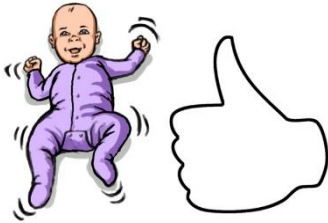


It is supported by the National Practice Model. This says how workers should plan to work with children and families for their wellbeing.

Children have these needs for good wellbeing:



1. **Safe** - feeling safe, cared for and listened to when growing up. Protected from abuse, neglect or harm at home.



2. **Healthy** - having the best physical and mental health possible. Access to good health care. Support to make healthy and safe choices.



3. **Achieving** - supported and guided in learning skills, confidence and self-esteem



4. **Nurtured** - growing, developing and being cared for in a place that feels safe. Getting the kindness and warmth needed to be healthy and positive.



- 5. Active** - having opportunities to take part in activities like play and sport. This helps healthy growth and development at home, in school and in the community.



- 6. Respected** - having a voice and being involved in decisions that affect them.



- 7. Responsible** - having opportunities and the chance to take active roles at home, in school and in the community. Having advice and support if needed.



- 8. Included** - having help to overcome inequalities. Be accepted as part of their family, school and community.

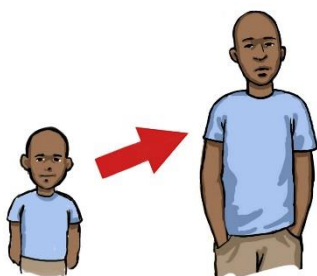
Range of support



GIRFEC is for all children and young people. With the right support, at the right time every child or young person can reach their full potential.



The wellbeing and needs of children and young people can also be affected by social issues. These include poverty, housing and local services. We need to look at all these issues when supporting children.



If a child has problems, it can affect them as an adult.



Children's wellbeing can also be affected by additional support needs. It can be harder for them to learn. All children and young people have the right to education. It is important that additional support needs are supported.



Everyone working with children and young people needs to protect them from violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment. This is while in the care of their parents or anyone else who looks after them. The GIRFEC principles link to child protection issues and rules.

Keeping the Promise

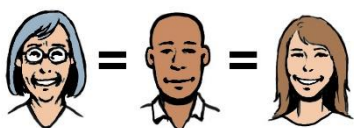


GIRFEC is part of our plan of how we deliver services for children, young people and families. It can add to family support.



Views of children and young people should be listened to. More should be done for people with experience of care. Relationships between brothers and sisters should be protected, they should be kept together, where it is safe to do so.

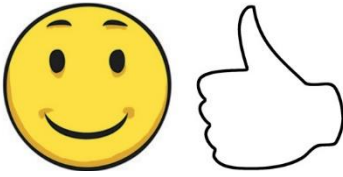
Reaching our goals



GIRFEC considers and addresses inequalities.



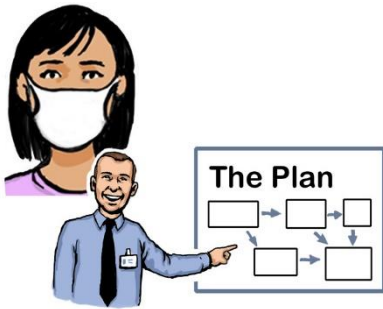
We know that every child or young person has different circumstances. We need to tackle the many inequalities they may have. All workers working with children and young people help with this.



There has been progress. When GIRFEC is being used it makes a positive difference.



However, we also know that GIRFEC practice is different in some areas. Good practice needs to be shared. We need to involve children and young people.



We can transform as we come out of the pandemic. We can make sure there are plans in place. We want Scotland to be the best place for children and young people to grow up.



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