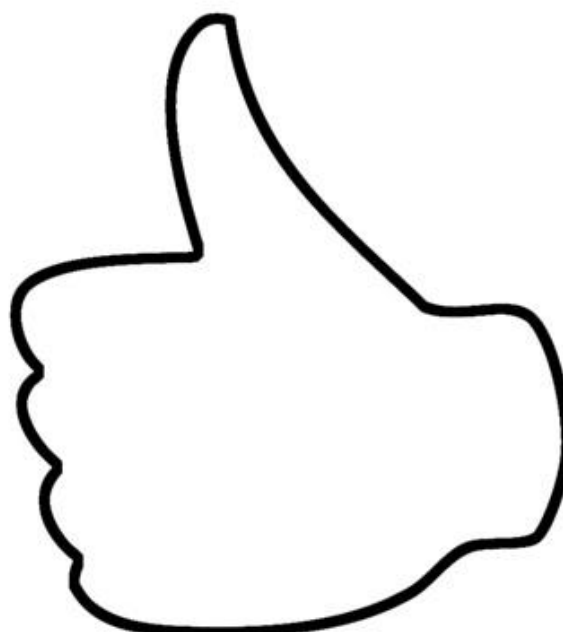


# Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)

## Policy Statement

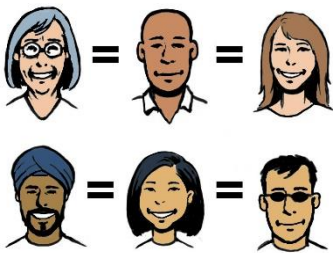


**Easy Read Version**

# Introduction



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



They 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 (Getting it right for every child) 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.



A Child/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.



GIRFEC has helped a lot of children and young people. Some bits of GIRFEC have been difficult to put into practice.



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

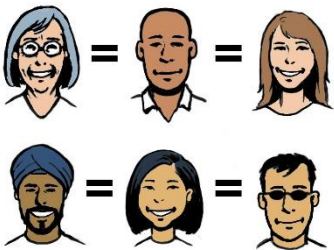
## Law and policy



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.

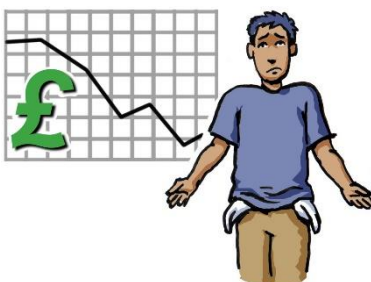


Children's rights and wellbeing are linked. Where a child's rights are protected their wellbeing should improve. Where a child's wellbeing is good they are able to enjoy their rights.



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 fighting 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.

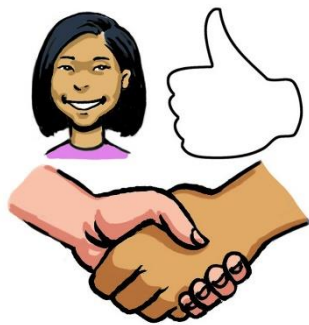


The Independent Care Review says what changes are needed for services. It says they should centre around children and families, to make a country that cares.



We are working so services:

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

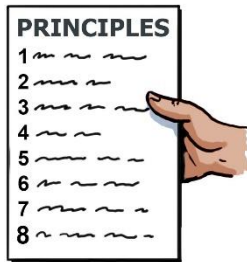


We want to improve results for all children and young people. Local services should be joined up. They should focus on supporting children and young people's wellbeing. Support should be offered early.



GIRFEC has been used across Scotland for many years. It helps children and young people at an earlier stage.

## Policy Statement



GIRFEC has key principles:

- Place the child and family at the centre

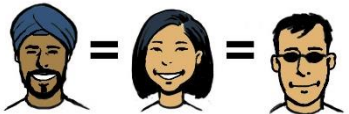


- Work in partnership with families

- Understand wellbeing as being about all areas of life



- Value diversity and no discrimination



- Tackle inequality



- Offer support earlier

- Services work in partnership both locally and nationally



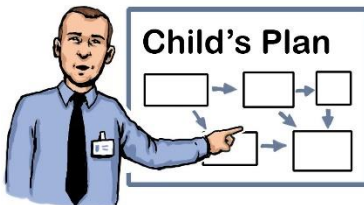
GIRFEC improves the wellbeing of children and young people. It also provides support if needed. This is provided by:



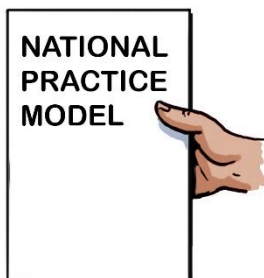
- a named person who is a clear point of contact for support and advice.



- 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.

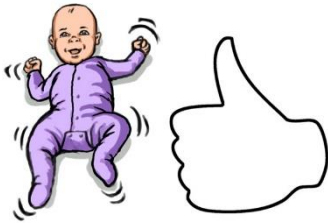


It is supported by the National Practice Model. This says how staff should plan to work with children and families for their wellbeing.

Children have these needs for good wellbeing:



1. **Safe** - 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 to develop skills, confidence and self-esteem



4. **Nurtured** - a family setting to support and encourage. This can be with help if needed. If this is not possible than the most suitable care.





5. **Active** - having opportunities to take part in activities, such as play and sport. This helps healthy growth and development.



6. **Respected** - have a voice and be involved in decisions that affect them.



7. **Responsible** - have opportunities. Be encouraged to be active and responsible. This should be with guidance and supervision.



8. **Included** - help to reduce inequalities. Be accepted.

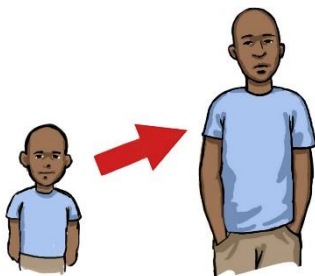
## Need



GIRFEC is for all children and young people. Including children and young people with temporary, longer term, or permanent needs.



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.

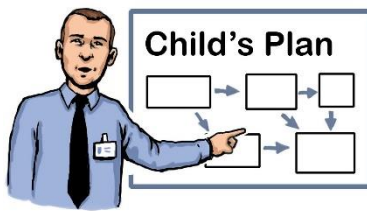


Children's wellbeing can also be affected by additional support needs. It can be harder for them to learn. All children and young people have the right to education. It is important that we identify additional support needs.



Governments need to protect children 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 processes.

## Keeping the Promise



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

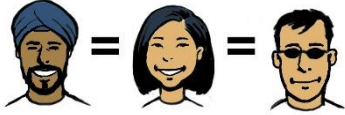


We need to think about our language. We need to think about how we improve working with children and young people. Children and young people must be listened to. They need to be involved in decision making about their care.

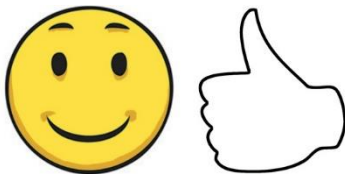
## Reaching our goals



GIRFEC meets standards for equality.



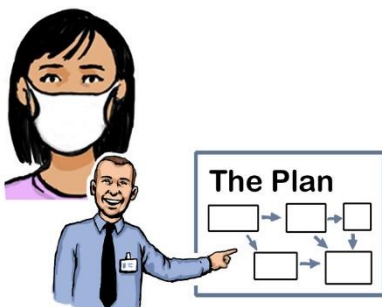
We know that every child or young person has different circumstances. We need to work to overcome the many inequalities they may have. All staff working with children and young people help with this.



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

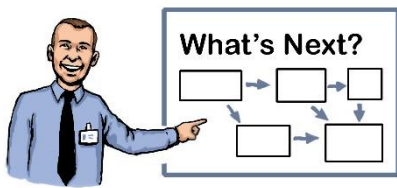


However, we also know that using GIRFEC has been different in some parts of Scotland. Good practice needs to be shared. We need to involve children and young people.



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.

## What's Next?



We will understand the challenges in using GIRFEC.  
We will sort these as we learn from children, young people and families.



The parts of the law we cannot use will be cancelled.



Politicians agreed that this is the way we should work.  
We want to move so children's rights are respected and protected in Scotland.