



Newsletter 1

Why 20 years of GIRFEC matters.

Purpose

This first edition sets the scene for our celebration of 20 years of Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) in Falkirk. It is for colleagues across Falkirk who support children, young people and families and marks the start of a monthly series sharing real examples of GIRFEC in action across our services and communities.

Over the coming months, we will spotlight practice from across Falkirk that shows how GIRFEC values are lived every day – through relationships, early help and shared responsibility.

Key Messages

- GIRFEC is not a programme, it is the values and approach that underpin how we work.
- Over 20 years, Falkirk has moved from siloed working to shared responsibility and earlier, more preventative support.
- The focus has always been on wellbeing, relationships and listening to children and families.

Content

This year marks around 20 years since Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) began shaping how services across Scotland support children, young people and families. In Falkirk, GIRFEC has helped move us from working in silos to working together – with clearer roles, shared language and a stronger focus on what matters most to children and families themselves.

GIRFEC isn't a programme or a project. It is the values and approach that underpin how we support wellbeing, make decisions and work across services. While priorities, policies and structures have changed over time, GIRFEC remains the how that brings our shared ambitions to life in everyday practice.

Looking ahead

As we mark this anniversary, the focus is not on looking back alone, but on carrying forward what works. Over the coming months, this series will share practical examples of GIRFEC in action across Falkirk, celebrating the people, relationships and practice that continue to make a difference to children, young people and families.

Looking ahead, sustaining the GIRFEC approach means keeping relationships at the centre, supporting confident joined-up practice, and staying focused on wellbeing rather than thresholds.