



You are here: [Guiding Manual Homepage](#) > [Who we are](#)



Who we are

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Girlguiding UK is the United Kingdom's largest voluntary organisation for girls and young women, with about 575,000 members including about 65,000 trained volunteer adult Leaders.

'Girlguiding UK' is an operating name of The Guide Association.

The Guide Association:

- is incorporated and governed by Royal Charter.
- is a registered charity (number 306016).

In this section:

[Statement of purpose](#)

[Aim of guiding](#)

[Girlguiding UK and World Guiding](#)

[British Guides in Foreign Countries \(BGIFC\)](#)

[World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts \(WAGGGS\)](#)

[Guiding's distinctive Method](#)

[The Promise](#)

[Wording of the Promise](#)

[The Laws](#)

[Constitutions](#)

[Links with other childcare and youth organisations](#)

[The Trefoil Guild](#)

Statement of purpose

Girlguiding UK enables girls and young women to develop their potential and to make a difference to the world.

[Top of page](#)

Aim of guiding

The aim of guiding is to help girls and young women develop emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually so that they can make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world.

[Top of page](#)

Girlguiding UK and World Guiding

Girlguiding UK makes guiding available in the United Kingdom, its Crown Dependencies, its overseas territories and in British communities overseas, to every

girl and woman who wants to take part.

There are Girl Guide Associations in all 53 countries in the Commonwealth. Most are independent and a small number are Branch Associations of Girlguiding UK.

[Top of page](#)

British Guides in Foreign Countries (BGIFC)

Where a British community exists in another country, Girlguiding UK units may be formed with the permission of the local Association. British Guides in Foreign Countries (BGIFC) is an integral part of Girlguiding UK with its own Commissioner and support structure. It is administered in a similar way to the other Countries and Regions in the United Kingdom.

[Top of page](#)

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

Girlguiding UK is a founder member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), which currently has ten million members in 145 countries. All WAGGGS member organisations share a number of common principles:

- commitment to the ideals embodied in a Promise and Law
- membership that is open to all girls and women irrespective of faith, race, culture, nationality or any other circumstance, provided they are able to understand and are willing to make or work towards making the Promise
- membership which is voluntary
- independence from any political organisation
- membership which is self-governing, with freedom to formulate its policy and put it into practice.

[Top of page](#)

Guiding's distinctive Method

Girlguiding UK believes in the value of learning by doing. This is put into practice through a Method with five interlinking elements, known as the Five Essentials of guiding:

- working together in small groups
- encouraging self-government and decision making
- a balanced and varied programme
- caring for the individual
- sharing a commitment to a common standard

The Guiding Method is delivered to young members grouped by age into four sections: Rainbow Guides, Brownie Guides, Guides and Senior Section members. Its principles apply to all members, including adults. Details of the section and volunteer structure can be found in [Structure](#).

All female members of Girlguiding UK are occasionally referred to using the generic term Guides.

[Top of page](#)

The Promise

Adults, Senior Section members and Guides work towards making, or reaffirm, the following Promise:

*I promise that I will do my best:
To love my God,
To serve the Queen and my country,
To help other people
and
To keep the Guide Law.*

A further responsibility of a Senior Section member is:

To be of service to the community.

The Brownie Guide Promise is:

*I promise that I will do my best:
To love my God,
To serve the Queen and my country,
To help other people
and
To keep the Brownie Guide Law.*

The Rainbow Guide Promise is:

I promise that I will do my best to love my God and to be kind and helpful.

[Top of page](#)

Wording of the Promise

Members who are of foreign nationality and who are temporarily or permanently resident in the United Kingdom may make the Promise in the following way:

*I promise that I will do my best:
To love my God,
To serve the country in which I live,
To help other people
and
To keep the [Brownie] Guide Law.*

Where, in a religion, God has a name which is more commonly used, that name may be substituted in order to make the Promise more meaningful to each girl or woman.

In these cases it is recommended that the Leader discusses the wording of the Promise with the girl and an adult with parental responsibility for her.

[Top of page](#)

The Laws

The Guide Law (for Guides, the Senior Section and adults) is:

- 1. A Guide is honest, reliable and can be trusted.*
- 2. A Guide is helpful and uses her time and abilities wisely.*
- 3. A Guide faces challenge and learns from her experiences.*
- 4. A Guide is a good friend and a sister to all Guides.*
- 5. A Guide is polite and considerate.*
- 6. A Guide respects all living things and takes care of the world around her.*

The Brownie Guide Law is:

A Brownie Guide thinks of others before herself and does a Good Turn every day.

The Rainbow section does not have a Law.

[Top of page](#)

Constitutions

There are constitutions that govern various organisations within Girlguiding UK as required by the current legislation for the country within which they are operating.

[Top of page](#)

Links with other childcare and youth organisations

Girlguiding UK is a recognised part of the UK's youth service provision and is affiliated to or linked with other organisations within the childcare and youth sectors.

[Top of page](#)

The Trefoil Guild

The Trefoil Guild is part of Girlguiding UK but has a separate constitution and is independently administered.

The aim and objectives of The Trefoil Guild are:

- to give practical, financial and moral support to Guiding and Scouting
- to keep alive among members the spirit of the Guide and Scout Promises and Laws
- to carry that spirit into the communities in which members live and work.

[Top of page](#)

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