

Guiding Conversations



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

Good guiding is...

Introduction

Giving girls and young women a good guiding experience is at the heart of what we do, and every unit and every Leader has strengths and things they can celebrate about the guiding they deliver!

Good guiding is... is a practical tool designed to outline the fundamentals of good guiding, putting the Five Essentials into practice in order to offer girls and young women the best guiding experience. This Guiding Conversation will introduce you to *Good guiding is...* and give you an idea of how you can use it to:

- help you deliver a good guiding programme
- evaluate your programme
- plan ahead.

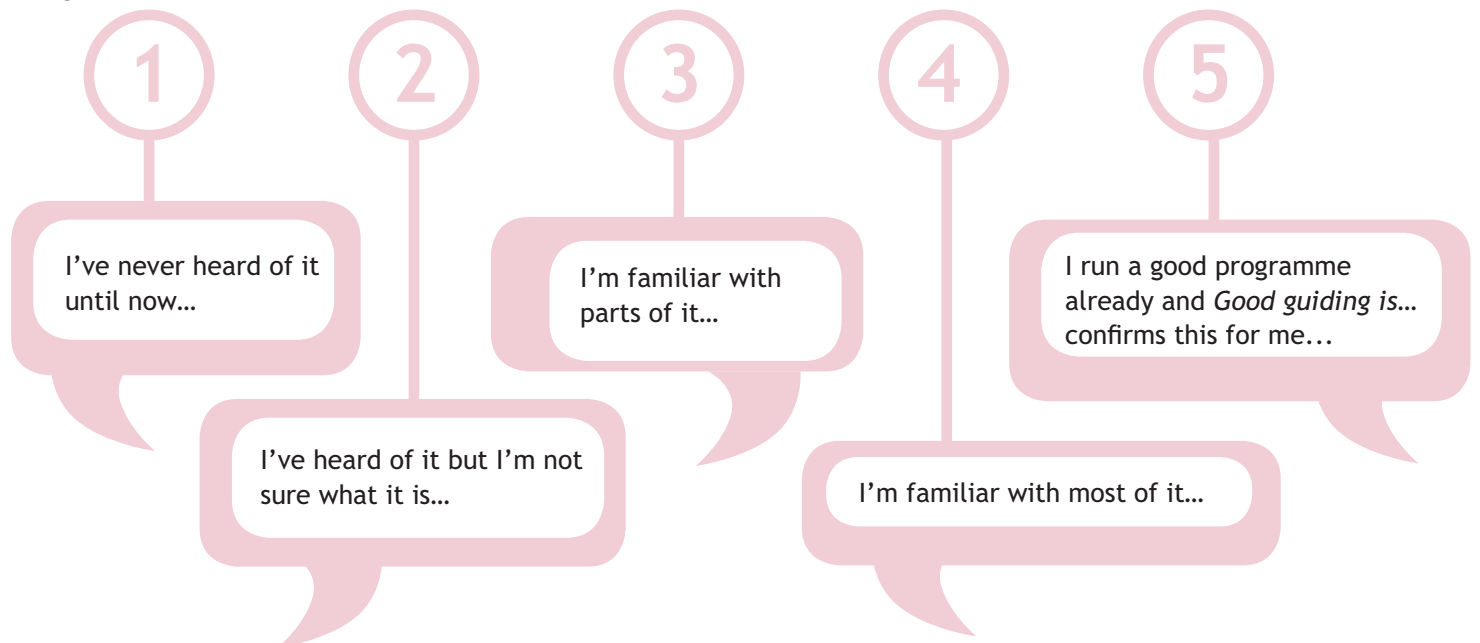
It would be a good idea to ask each person to read a copy of the resource prior to the meeting, and provide copies for reference at the meeting.

Download [Good Guiding is...](#) here.

Icebreaker activity

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being unfamiliar, 5 being very familiar), ask each person to rate their level of experience of *Good guiding is...* The aim of this activity is to get a picture of how familiar the team is with the resource, and how everyone feels about it.

As a rough guide, below are some examples of the types of comments you might hear, but there is no right or wrong answer.



If the team is unfamiliar with *Good guiding is...* then don't worry - this Guiding Conversation is the perfect way to get started!

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What is a good guiding experience?

It's important to give every girl a safe space in which to explore different things and to learn what she does and doesn't like. A fun, balanced programme with lots of challenge and adventure will not only keep girls coming back, but inspire more girls to join.

'Last year one of my Baden-Powell girls taught martial arts to her peers. They really enjoyed it. I saw the girl in a different light. I hadn't thought about extending it to the whole unit but I'm going to find out what skills they have.' Ruth Whyte, Leader with 1st Bromborough Guides & Senior Section

Discuss: What activities do the girls in your unit like or dislike? When did you last ask them? Have they ever surprised you? How often do you try something new?

Activity

Perhaps your programme is fine the way it is; on the other hand, maybe you find some aspects a bit daunting and worry about getting it right. *Good guiding is...* helps you recognise the strengths in your guiding, as well as any areas that could be improved.

Ten key areas are covered on pages 3-7 of *Good guiding is...*:

- Challenge and adventure
- Going away
- Moving on and growing
- Opportunities and awareness
- Developing skills
- Decision-making and planning
- Learning
- Fun
- Relating to girls and young women
- Living the Promise and the Law

Choose three of the ten and spend a couple of minutes on each one talking about the things you are currently doing in these areas. The aim of this activity is to identify your own strengths and your strengths as a team.

Fun and inspirational ideas

A varied programme is fundamental to good guiding, but it can be hard work trying to generate fresh ideas all the time. *Good guiding is...* can give you inspiration.

'Going back to basics sparks off different ideas. Otherwise it's easy to stick to what you know and fail to keep exploring.' Jackie Mahoney, Leader with Olton Rangers, who found that the section 'Relating to girls and young women' helped her reflect on whether she is up to speed with young people

Discuss: Where do you get your ideas - from other members of the team, the girls, or elsewhere? Are there any ideas from *Good guiding is...* that you'd like to try?

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How do you evaluate what you do?

Evaluating what you're doing can be easy to overlook - sometimes it feels like there just isn't the time! But it is important to stop for a moment and reflect - this is your opportunity to appreciate what you've achieved, think about areas you'd like to improve and, importantly, celebrate what you do well in your unit. It needn't be complicated!

'Good guiding is... helps me check whether we've covered all the points and see how balanced the programme was.' Julie Eaton, Leader with 1st Munich Guides in Germany, who uses *Good guiding is...* in her end-of-year review

Discuss: What methods do you currently use to evaluate your guiding? Has *Good Guiding is...* given you any ideas?

Planning ahead

Understanding the fundamentals of good guiding makes planning ahead easy. A plan will keep you focused throughout the year and it's a good way to ensure the Five Essentials are included in your programme. Here are just a few examples of how *Good guiding is...* can help with planning.

- By giving you ideas for getting the girls' input through Rainbow Chat, Brownie Pow-wow or Patrol Leaders' Council, and resources such as *Participation on a Plate*.
- By suggesting activities for fun, challenge, adventure and going away.
- By encouraging you to try something new, no matter how big or small, and look out for opportunities such as e-learning or activity ideas from *guiding* magazine.



Discuss: Did this Guiding Conversation help you to identify where your strengths and weaknesses lie? If so, you have a good starting point for an action plan. As a team, think about what you can do next to build on your strengths and improve weaker areas, using *Good guiding is...* to support you.

