

Agenda Item	<b>7</b>
Report No	<b>G/2/21</b>

## **THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**Committee:** Gaelic Committee

**Date:** 23 February 2021

**Report Title:** Gaelic Medium Education and Gaelic Learner Education – Update

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance

### **1. Purpose/Executive Summary**

1.1 This Report informs Members of

- a) the key areas of current and future development which will support the growth of Gaelic Education in Highland Council encompassing the key priorities of GLP3; and
- b) the impact of COVID on current key priorities within Gaelic Education (GLP3) with a specific focus on the following themes;
  - Gaelic Medium Education – Early Years, Primary and Secondary
  - Gaelic Learner Education – Primary and Broad General Education Phase Secondary Education

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Consider the report and note the actions that have been taken to mitigate the impact of Covid on the delivery of the Gaelic Education;
- ii. Note the areas of current and future development; and
- iii. Consider what other actions can be taken to support the development of Gaelic Education.

### **3. Implications**

3.1 Resource

The resource implications are within the current main budget stream which include core Council budget, Gaelic Specific Grant, COVID support fund (Bòrd na Gàidhlig), and Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (Bòrd na Gàidhlig).

- 3.2 Legal  
The Highland Council has a requirement to implement its Gaelic Language Plan under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act of 2005.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)  
The Report complies with The Highland Council policies on equality. There are no adverse socio-economic, rural or island implications.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever  
The Gaelic Team currently attend all meetings online and virtually, thus reducing the requirement for business travel.
- 3.5 Risk  
COVID remains a risk in terms of the delivery of Gaelic education in the coming year. As the report sets out, this has already disrupted the delivery of teaching and learning in 2020, particularly but not exclusively with regard to ELC, and this in turn is likely to have longer term implications in terms of impact on learning. The situation will be kept under constant review, with mitigating action being put in place wherever possible.
- 3.6 Gaelic  
The report enhances Gaelic Development within The Highland Council area and supports the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan.

#### 4. Early Years Education

- 4.1 The Early Years Education Support Officer team have led and updated the Highland Council ELC blog with a range of themed resources to support ELC practitioners during this period of lockdown. The resources on this page have been gathered to support practitioners as they deliver online learning and are designed to be used in flexible ways that can be adapted to suit the needs of individual settings. The page has been updated and now includes a tile for Gaelic Medium settings with the return of the GME Bumps to Bairns offering 'Cluichidh sinn Còmhlà' resource created in collaboration by Early Years Practitioners at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis and Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phortrigh. Within the resource, there are suggested links to creative language learning opportunities online and weekly Gàidhlig YouTube content created specifically to support language development targets outlined within the overview, created through support from the Gaelic Community Officer for the West. This resource will enable staff to enhance the online support available to families with children at the total immersion stage while learning at home. Click [here](#) to view the blog.
- 4.2 To support Early Years Practitioners in their Continuing Professional Learning requirements, online Bitesize training sessions are on track to be available to view in February. They will focus on Education Scotland's Realising the Ambition, Gaelic total immersion through a play pedagogy and how to support practitioners to track progress in language development in Early Years stages.
- 4.3 Enrolment weeks for all nursery and primary 1 children are planned and underway for the next school session. The process to enrol pupils in Primary 1 GME has been refreshed. The main enrolment page online states,

*“Highland Council is committed to providing equal respect for English and Gaelic, on the basis that they both have an essential part to play in Highland life. It is for this reason that you are asked to consider whether you wish to complete enrolment for English Medium or Gaelic Medium Education”*

The primary enrolment page also now signposts all parents to a letter from Nicky Grant, Executive Chief Officer for Education and Learning, introducing families at a key

stage to the benefits of Gaelic Medium Education and sharing information on where this is available in each area. This letter is included as an appendix to this report.

The GME information on the Council's ELC enrolment page is being updated to support parents and carers with families who would like to find out more information.

## **5. Gaelic Medium Education**

- 5.1 Learning content is added to the GME pages weekly on The Highland Council Digital Learning hub. This is accessible by all pupils and parents to support learning at home. A range of activities have been created by the Gaelic Resources Officer, from powerpoints to help with pronunciation and vocabulary building, to a variety of recorded videos that offer online learning at the pupils own pace. Many teachers are also linking in to the resources to support their own online offering for class learning activities.

Wider Gaelic community partnerships, as signposted on the Digital Hub have been added during this second school closure. FC Sonas are currently offering 'Ballcoise Beò' to all Highland Council GME schools. Weekly live streamed sessions, through the medium of Gaelic, and using Google Classroom allows pupils access through their school's digital classroom. This offering has had a high level of interest, with approximately 250 pupils now registered with their teachers.

For an example of new literacy resources available to view on the Digital Hub, [click here](#).

- 5.2 A new resource of Inter-disciplinary learning units has been shared using Thinglink. Following the promotion of Thinglink as a platform by Education Scotland and e-sgoil's this resource was piloted by our 1 plus 2 Language Development Officer this term. The program allows children to view and absorb specific information more independently and take part in tasks and challenges, at the click of a button, and supports their use of Gaelic during home learning. This reinforces the 'Cleachdi' movement promoted by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. GME pupils have worked through units on health and the weather recently, and after finding out more about what it takes to be a weather presenter, they were challenged to create and record their own weather report. Further units are planned that will focus on Hobbies, Food&Drink, My Family and other topics that will allow the pupils to gather information and create work using their Gaelic.

To view this resource [click here](#).

Furthermore, 'Siuthad', the GME Careers Development Event which was held online supported by our Education and Gaelic Teams working in partnership with Skills Development Scotland is now available online using Thinglink. This creates a legacy resource and is available to all schools who may wish to build on these resources as part of their own Developing the Young Workforce curriculum.

To view this resource [click here](#).

- 5.3 The Council has arranged for GME teachers across Highland to have the opportunity to undertake GME specific training on Scottish Government Standardised Assessments during January and February 2021. The training will focus on MCNG (Gaelic Standardised Assessment), using data to improve outcomes as well as Giglets training to support pupils with persistent literacy difficulties. Training will take place online and in twilight after school sessions, as requested by a GME reference group for Education.
- 5.4 In November, GME Secondary teachers from Portree High School formed a reference

group to meet with John Jo MacNeil, Edinburgh University Education Senior Teaching Fellow, and Dr Fiona O Hanlon, Senior Lecturer in Language Education, to discuss pedagogies and support for persistent literacy difficulties in the BGE and Senior Phase in Secondary Education. Following on from this discussion, a proposal for twilight training to support secondary teachers has been signposted and plans are underway to deliver this as an online support. It is also proposed that students undertaking this training at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig can access this resource as part of the memorandum of understanding with Highland Council.

- 5.5 The Highland Council has recently appointed permanent Gaelic Head Teachers for Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis and Bun-sgoil Shlèite. Following the success of their recent growing role within their Gaelic Medium provision, Ullapool Primary recently created a Principal Teacher remit for Gaelic within their management structure and successfully appointed a permanent teacher. Leadership opportunities within our Gaelic Medium schools and provisions are important to the future sustainability of our GME teacher workforce planning. This also reinforces the Council's commitment to career opportunities in Gaelic Medium Education as outlined as an enabling action in the GLP.

## **6. Gaelic Learner Education**

- 6.1 The Council's Gaelic Language Plan 3 makes a strategic commitment to increasing the numbers of learners in establishments through a systematic and sustainable approach. The Council's Gaelic 1 plus 2 Officer has been working as part of The Highland Council development officer team and the Gaelic team to achieve this strategic commitment.
- 6.2 Self study videos and activities have been created by the 1+2 Development Officer, for use by pupils to learn Gaelic at home. These units cover a range of topics suitable for early, first and second levels and they introduce pupils to the language needed and provide activities to help learn the vocabulary and structures for that topic. There are units that also provide opportunities for studying Gaelic culture and the wider world of Gaelic around them. To view this resource [CLICK HERE](#).
- 6.3 The Highland Council's 1 plus 2 Officer's recent audit of training on Gaelic Learner in the primary and BGE phase, shared the following results:

### Training -

- Most felt that 1+2 training has been very worthwhile, esp in Gaelic, where most teachers had very little prior knowledge;
- Most feel that confidence levels have grown since training, regarding what is expected of them and how to deliver additional languages in class;
- Teachers have appreciated and made use of the additional training offered, either as refresh days or online training sessions;
- Linking with colleagues in the Northern Alliance has allowed for additional training opportunities for teachers, on language acquisition and pedagogy;
- To counter the lack of training sessions and with a view to sustainability, online self-study units, developed by the Highland 1+2 Development Officer are available for teachers to continue to learn Gaelic at their own pace. To view this resource [CLICK HERE](#)

### Resources -

- Making Go!Gaelic and newly created resources available via hyperlinked planners has been beneficial and easy for teachers to find and deliver a variety of learning activities;
- These will continue to be updated when possible and with further assistance from the newly formed GLE teacher network (GLEANS) which aims to share 1+2 Gaelic resources across Scotland;
- Making use of new technology developments, such as recording apps and online games, provides pupils with different ways to learn languages, either in school or at home;
- Linking with Northern Alliance colleagues has meant that resources can be shared across authorities to give a wider range of choice;

6.4 Scottish Government survey results and summarised information on the data for 1 plus 2 Gaelic Primary and Secondary BGE are provided in appendices 1 and 2.

This survey was carried out in 2019 and set out to evaluate current progress with implementation of the 1+2 approach to language learning in Scottish schools, which began in 2017. Due to the pandemic, it was not possible for another survey to be carried out in 2020. The return rate in 2019 was 149 out of 171 for Primary schools. The return rate for Secondary schools was 29 out of 29 schools.

	National Results	Highland Results
Percentage of Primary schools that provide full entitlement of L2	88%	89%
Percentage of Primary schools that provide full entitlement of L3	48%	55%
Percentage of Secondary schools that provide full entitlement of L2	70%	48%
Percentage of Secondary schools that provide full entitlement of L3	83%	66%

In investigating the reasons for the apparently poorer results for Highland secondary schools compared with the national results, Highland 1+2 Development Officers found that there may have been some inconsistencies in the way that data was submitted nationally. In Highland, where Secondary schools were offering an L2 and/or an L3 language, but were not yet wholly in line with the current guidelines from Education Scotland, the schools were registered as not providing full entitlement. At the time of the survey (2018/19), Secondaries were still very much in an adjustment phase with 1+2 delivery and had to trial ways in which they could offer them, bearing in mind issues such as timetabling, staffing, budgets etc. Since then, Secondaries have changed their practice for delivering 1+2 which has brought them more in line with current guidelines and expectations. It is understood that this practice was not necessarily mirrored within other authorities, where schools may have been registered as providing full entitlement, even though the actual delivery would not have met the current guidelines.

## 7. Highland Virtual Academy (HVA)

7.1 In line with Highland's commitment to providing an equitable service across the

authority, Education Officers have met to discuss the HVA offering for GME and GLE.

- 7.2 In line with the Highland Virtual Academy model, a proposed scoping exercise has been proposed by Education Officers to work in partnership with schools to explore how Gaelic Education could be supported as part of the Academy.
- 7.3 The scoping exercise will also review if a networking opportunity between Secondary GME and GLE provisions is possible, in order to maximise access to senior phase subjects. When considering Gaelic community for pupils in secondary provision, the models of learning online have adapted greatly due to the move to online learning during school closures. This has increased the confidence in how quality online learning can be offered with access to the right technology. There is an opportunity to contribute to how we build our Gaelic pupil community. There are opportunities to explore and to enhance the ability to access learning beyond classroom based activities to online communities and wider opportunities to use Gaelic outwith the classroom environment.
- 7.4 A fundamental and key part of the process involving this activity, will be the focus on our pupil's own voice. Engagement with pupils, as part of the national empowerment agenda promoted by Education Scotland, will be a key part of the scoping exercise to gather their views on transition stages within Gaelic Education in their secondary school experience.

## 8 The Highland Council Vision for Gaelic Education

- 8.1 The strategic leadership team of The Highland Council continues to meet and communicate regularly with key agencies and partners, in line with Gaelic Language Plan priorities on Gaelic Education. The following table provides background on current targets to increase pupil numbers in both GME and GLE.

Year	GME Nursery/Partner Centre Pupils	GME Primary School Pupils	Secondary School Pupils Fluent Gaelic	Secondary School Pupils through Gaelic Subjects	Secondary School Pupils Gaelic Learners
2016-17	264	896	343	265	1829
2017-18	287 Up 8.01%	923 Up 2.93%	341 Down 0.59%	259 Down 2.32%	2012 Up 9.10%
2018-19	307 Up 6.51%	963 Up 4.15%	373 Up 8.58%	282 Up 8.16%	1887 Down 6.62%
2019-20	320 Up 4.06%	1034 Up 6.87%	388 Up 3.87%	261 Down 8.05%	2131 Up 11.45%
2020-21	283 Down 13.07%	1058 Up 2.27%	414 Up 6.28%	286 Up 8.74%	2208 Up 3.49%

An analysis of the pupil number data shows the following cumulative percentages for the duration of the current Gaelic Language Plan between school year sessions 2017/18 to 2020/21.

- ELC – 5.51% increase
- Primary – 16.22% increase
- Secondary Gàidhlig Fluent – 18.14% increase
- Secondary GME – 6.53% increase
- Secondary GLE – 17.42% increase

The decrease in ELC numbers, 2020-21, is noted and discussions around the reasons for this are taking place. This may be a reaction to the interruption of the total

immersion phase during school lockdown closures. From wider discussions with other authorities, this is a national trend created by a confidence gap for some families when considering committing to Gaelic Medium Education. Online learning for younger pupils provides challenges to engagement levels where they can experience Gaelic, interact and use Gaelic with their peers and with teachers.

8.2 The Highland Council’s Gaelic Team have submitted an application to the Scottish Government for Gaelic Specific Grant funding for Gaelic Medium Education and are awaiting further information on this year’s allocation. Outlined in the application are three overarching project headings related to Gaelic Education:

Project 1 – Gaelic Planning, Policy Implementation and Resources

Project 2 – Gaelic in the Home and in Communities - Learning & Development Projects including 0-3

Project 3 – Gaelic in Early Learning and Childcare, Primary and Secondary Education

8.3 The Gaelic Team support structure for the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan and Gaelic Education development across Highland is structured as below.



The Gaelic Development Manager’s work plan remit also partners with the Education Team Strategic Lead for Primary and ELC, Annika Jansson, to support the work of the GME workstream and wider curriculum developments to ensure GLP commitments are achieved for Gaelic Education.

Within the Education Team, Ruairidh MacKay, 1 plus 2 Development Officer has a remit for Gaelic as a modern language from Primary 1 until the end of the Broad General Education phase at S3. Ashley Bartlett, Early Years Education Support Officer for Mid Area also has a remit for quality assurance and partner working with Gaelic Medium nursery settings.

The *Scheme of Gaelic Specific Grant* covers all areas of Gaelic education from Pre-school, Primary, Secondary, through to adult learning. The Gaelic Team structure supports The Highland Council priorities for all these areas following the targets set in the GLP. Projects with proposed outcomes to support the aims of the Council’s GLP have been outlined as part of the Gaelic Specific Grant application.

8.4 The positional vision for the future of GME is as stated in the Gaelic Language Plan;

*‘3.2. Strategic Commitment - Ensure that Gaelic Education is embedded in The Highland Council’s Strategic Education Improvement Planning’*

This is reflected in the ‘Education and Learning Plan’ for 2021, created in collaboration

with Education officers and led by the Council's strategic leadership team. This Highland Council's 'Education and Learning Plan' (ELP) is now currently under stakeholder engagement using an Associated Schools Group approach. Gaelic Education is considered as part of the wider short term and longer term outcomes in the action plan with reference to the Gaelic Education key priorities and key performance results from the GLP3.

- 8.5 A review of the Council's Gaelic vision and strategy has also recently been initiated. Initial work is underway to scope out the remit of this review and there will be opportunities through workshops for Gaelic Committee members to fully contribute to this.
- 8.6 The Vision needs to be one that is ambitious and sustainable, building on the many opportunities there are to work with partners locally and nationally to expand Gaelic education, language and culture in the Highlands. There is plenty of scope at ELC, Primary and Secondary level to build on our success in being the biggest local authority provider of Gaelic education in Scotland. In addition to increasing ELC and Primary GME and language provision, the review will be looking at what can be done to expand Gaelic at secondary level and explore options for the development of a 3-18 campus in Inverness. Engagement with UHI, Bord na Gaidhlig and the Scottish Government is ongoing.
- 8.7 Critical to making progress will be the identification of sustainable resourcing which means access to both capital and revenue funding; high quality curriculum and extra curriculum content and choice; and reliable teacher supply. This can only be achieved by taking a connected, partnership approach. We will be working across a range of ECO remits to fully explore opportunities to grow Gaelic language and culture across the Highlands and empowering communities to identify spaces where Gaelic can be used for all. We will engage with key stakeholders including children and young people, teachers, parent groups, the Scottish Government, Gaelic organisations and our public sector partners and adopt a community-led approach. Securing additional external funding will necessarily be a core aim in order to achieve these ambitions. Progress on the review will be reported to the next meeting of the Gaelic Committee.

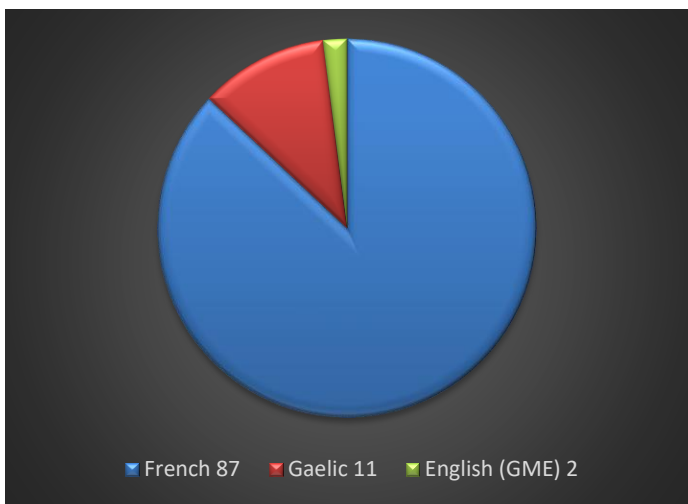
Designation: Gaelic Development Manager

Date: 3 February 2021

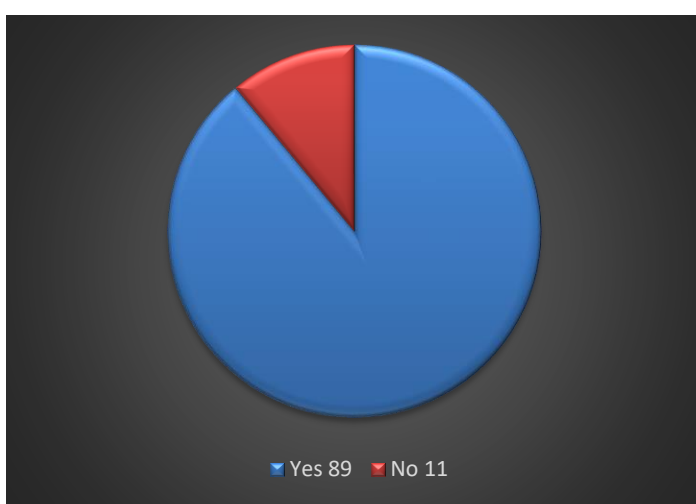
Author: Lena Walker, Gaelic Development Manager  
Ruairidh MacKay, 1 plus 2 Languages Education Development Officer



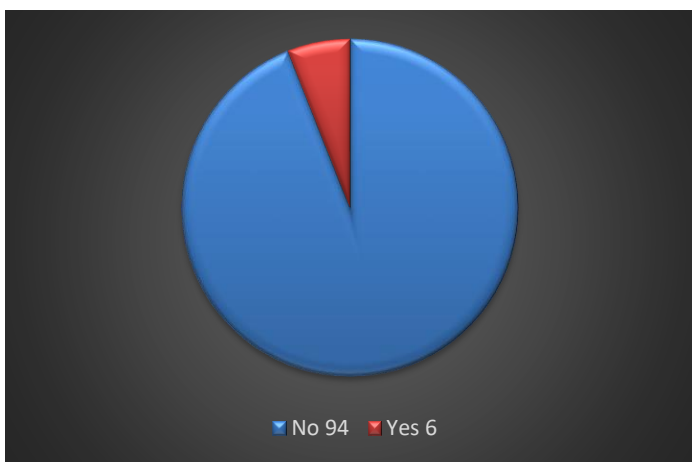
L2 Language Choice



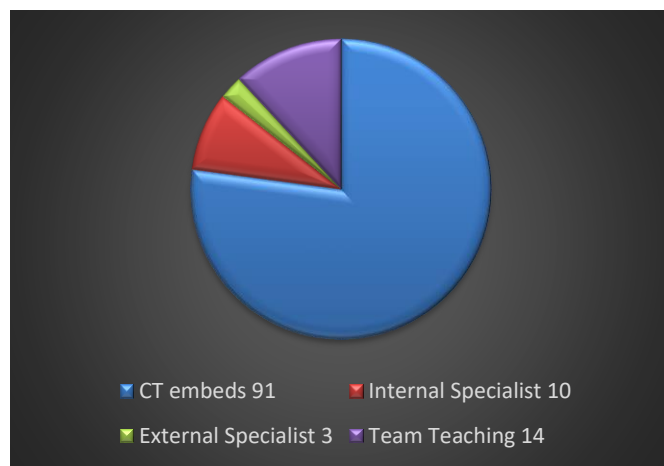
Are you providing full L2 entitlement?



Are you delivering more than one language as L2?



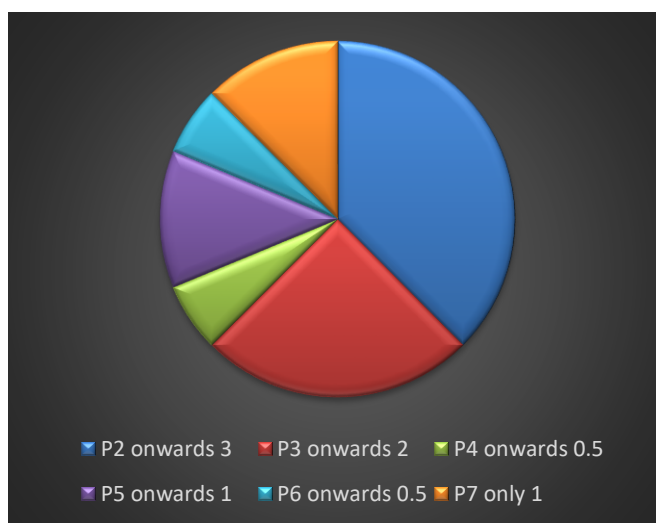
How is L2 delivered?



Reasons for not providing full entitlement?

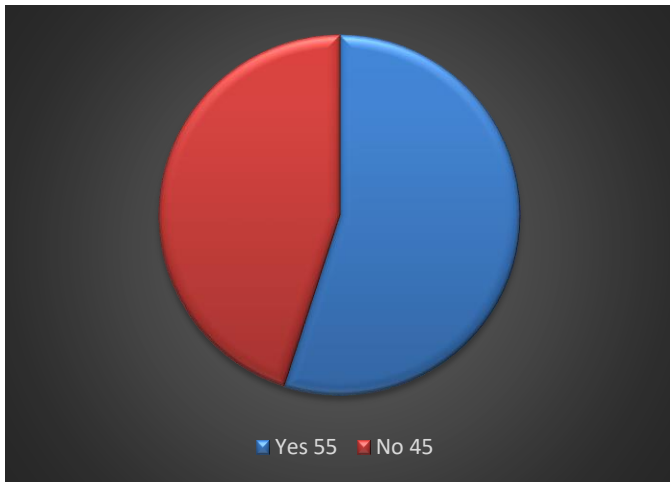


What stage are you providing it from?

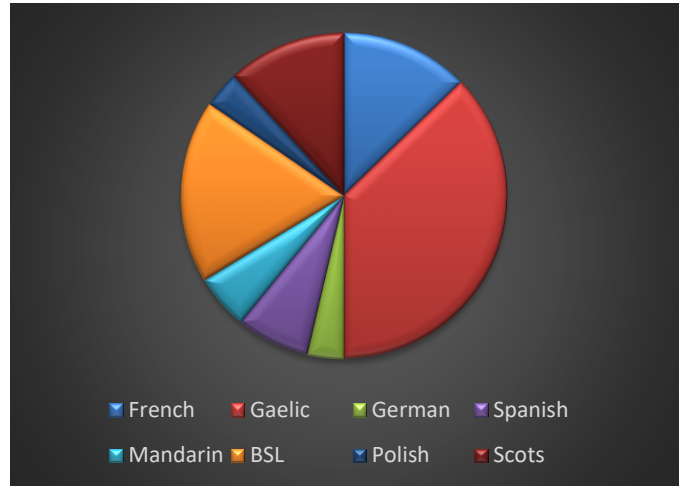


### L3

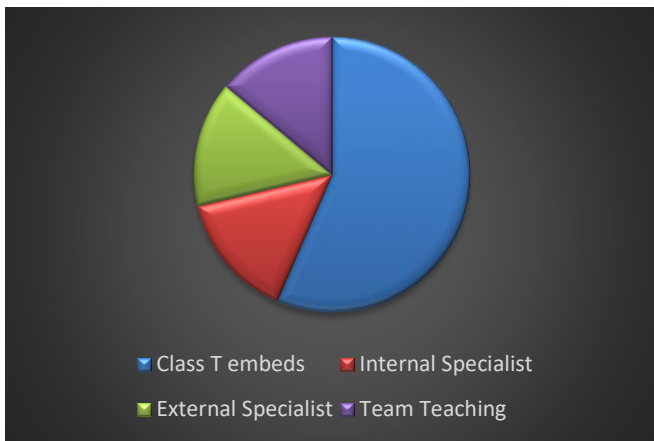
Are you providing full L3 entitlement?



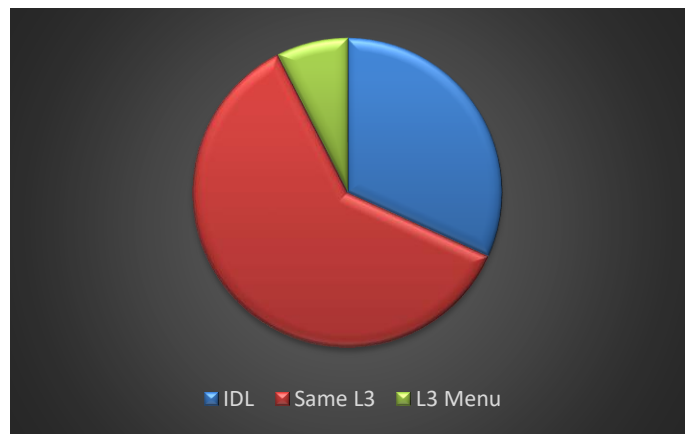
What languages are being delivered as L3?



How is L3 delivered?



How will you timetable L3?



Reasons for not providing full entitlement?



Scottish Government Survey 2018/19

L2 Survey

What language as L2?	French – 87%	Gaelic 11%	English (GME) – 2%			
Providing full entitlement?	Yes – 89%	No – 11%				
Delivering more than 1 language as L2?	No – 94%	Yes – 6%				
How is L2 delivered?	Class T embeds – 91%	Internal Specialist – 10%	External Specialist - 3%	Team Ts embed – 14%		
Reasons for not providing full entitlement?	Competing priorities – 9%	Ts not trained – 9%	T confidence – 7%	T movement – 5%	T skills – 4%	
Those not providing full entitlement – what stage are you providing it from?	P2 onwards – 3%	P3 onwards – 2%	P4 onwards – 0.5%	P5 onwards – 1%	P6 onwards – 0.5%	P7 only – 1%

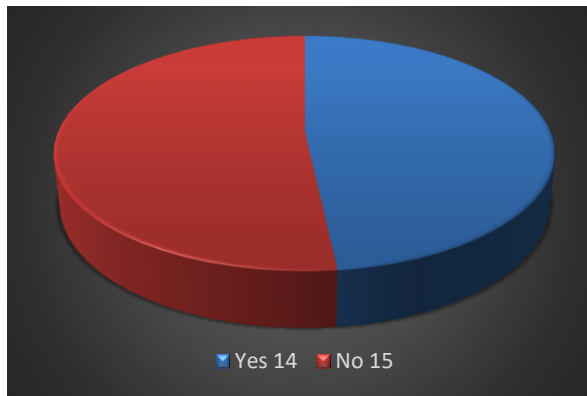
Scottish Government Survey 2018/19

L3 Survey

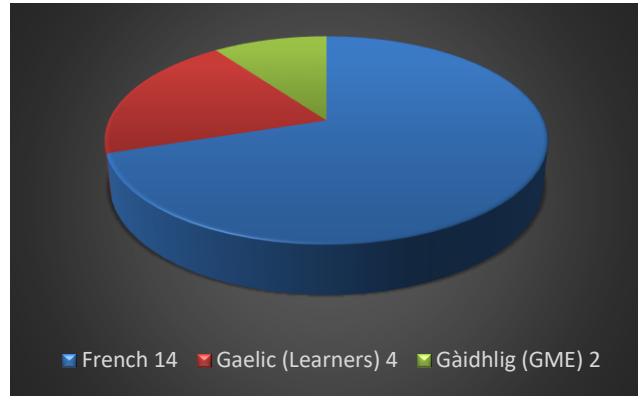
Providing full entitlement?	Yes – 55%	No – 45%						
L3 languages chosen	French – 14%	Gaelic – 41%	German – 4%	Spanish – 8%	Mandarin – 6%	BSL – 20%	Polish – 4%	Scots – 13%
How is L3 delivered?	Class T embeds – 65%	Internal Specialist – 17%		External Specialist - 17%	Team Ts embed – 16%			
How will you timetable L3?	IDL – 34%	Same L3 language – 65%		Menu of L3 languages – 8%				
Reasons for not providing full entitlement?	Competing priorities – 26%	Ts not trained – 30%		T confidence – 18%	T movement – 8%		T skills – 16%	
Those not providing full entitlement – what stage are you providing it from?	P5 only – 4%	P5 onwards – 16%		P6 only – 1%	P6 onwards – 4%		P7 only – 6%	Not providing from any stage – 20%

## Secondary ScotGov Survey 2018/19 – L2

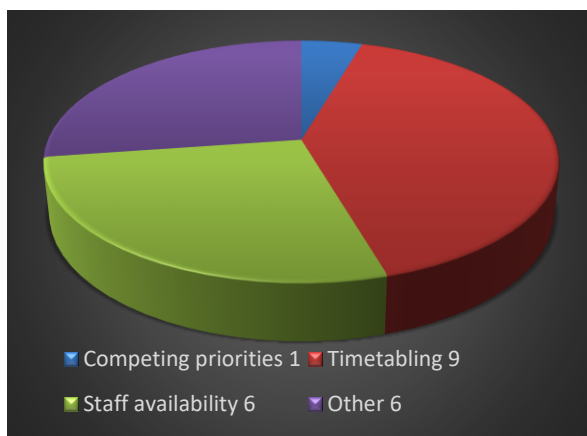
Do you provide full L2 entitlement?



What language are you providing full entitlement?



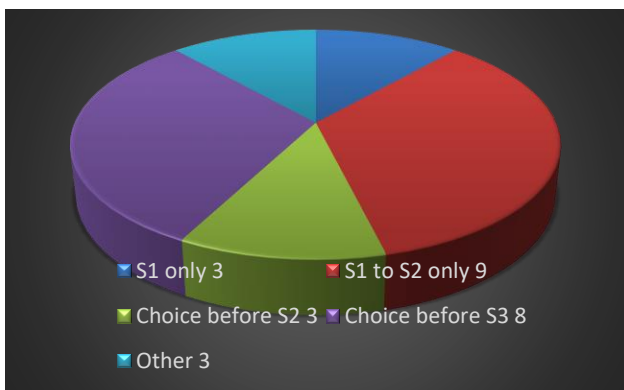
What reasons are given for not providing full entitlement?



**To summarise** - Promotion of language diversity by offering different languages either in a compulsory way or by offering pupils the chance to choose the L2 at some point in the BGE, or switch the L2 for the L3. In some schools languages are not compulsory in S3. **Here are some of the details:**

- In S3, from December onwards, L3 is provided at the expense of L2.
- Pupils choose between Gaelic and French going into S3 and they then receive more contact time with the language they have chosen. This should assist with the numbers picking a language at Senior Phase.
- French is only an option and is not in any of the main columns unlike every other subject in the school.
- Pupil choice of language for the S3 year leads to a slightly better uptake for S4 onward. The other beneficial effect is increased motivation for language learning (evidenced by pupils survey).

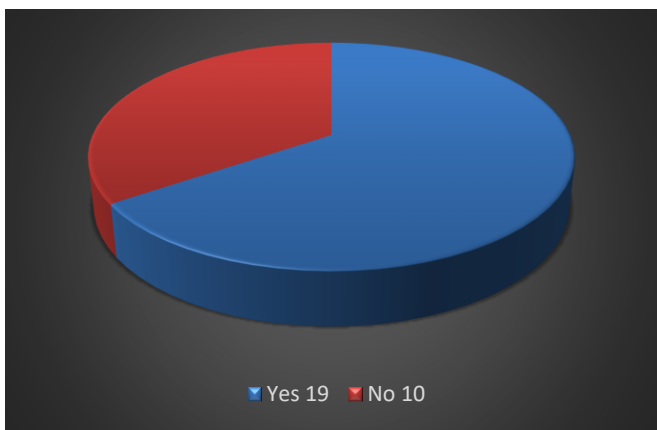
How are they providing L2 then?



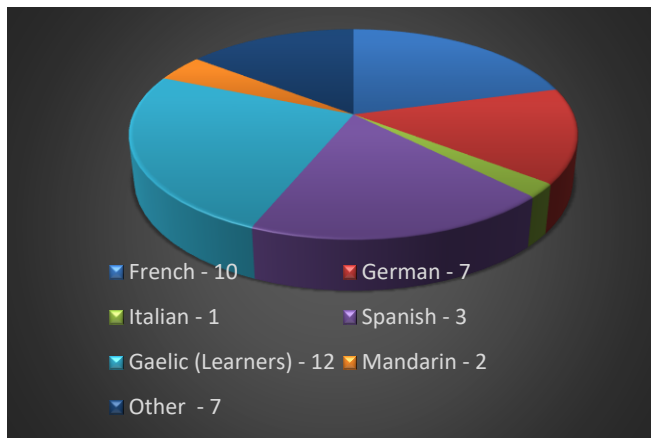
If you indicated 'Other' please tell us how these schools are providing L2 in S1-S3.

- Languages are compulsory in S1 -3 and in some schools there is more than 1 language on offer. There is a choice of the L2 language at some point in the BGE. It could be before starting S1, at the end of S1 or the end of S2. The L2 may not be continued throughout the BGE as pupils can choose to study the L3 studied in S1-2 instead of the L2, or they can pick up an entirely new language.
- Languages are compulsory in S1-3. Pupils do the same L2 for S1, S2 and Aug – Dec in S3, and then start a L3 and study this from Dec – June (instead of the L2) and the language choice is decided by the teacher.
- A Language is optional in S3 but if pupils choose a language they continue the same L2.
- A Language is optional in S3 but those who do not take it are given a mandatory 12 week Masterclass in learning a new language (Spanish or Mandarin) or in another school they have to do the Languages for Life and Word Award and do 1 element in the dropped language.

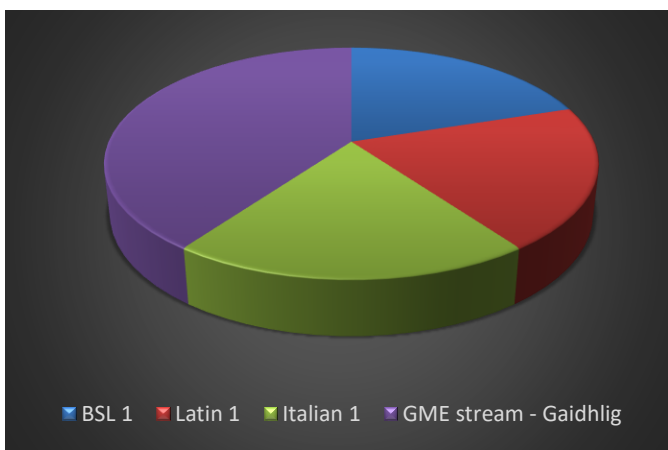
Are you providing L3?



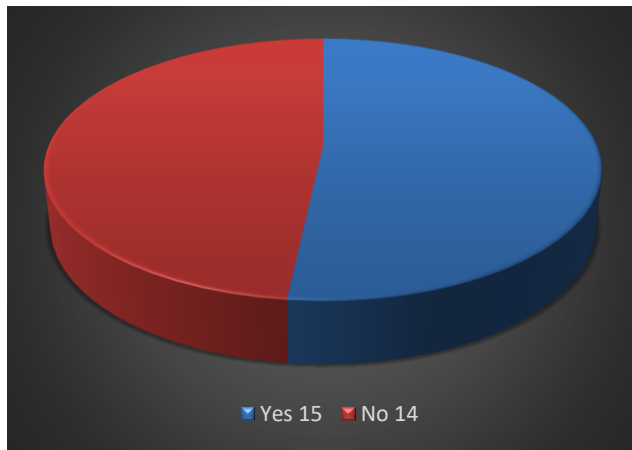
What languages?



Breakdown of Other from prev Q



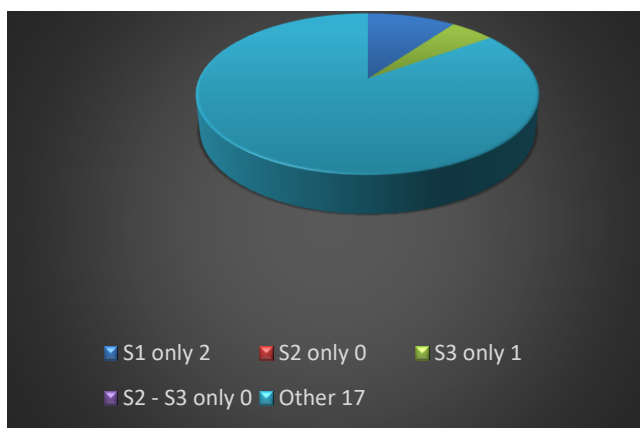
Do you provide more than 1 language as L3?



Reasons for not providing an L3?



From what stage do you provide an L3?



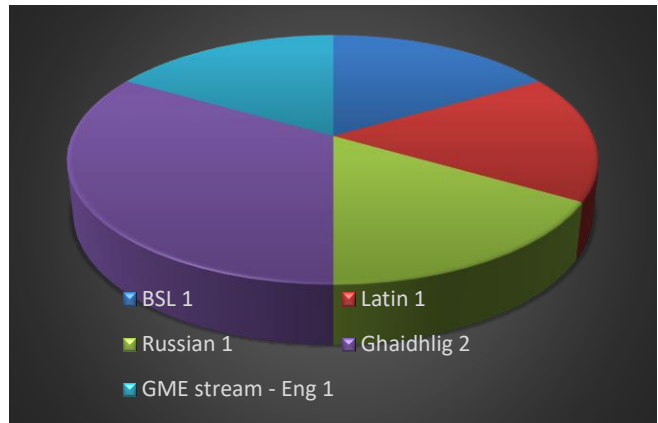
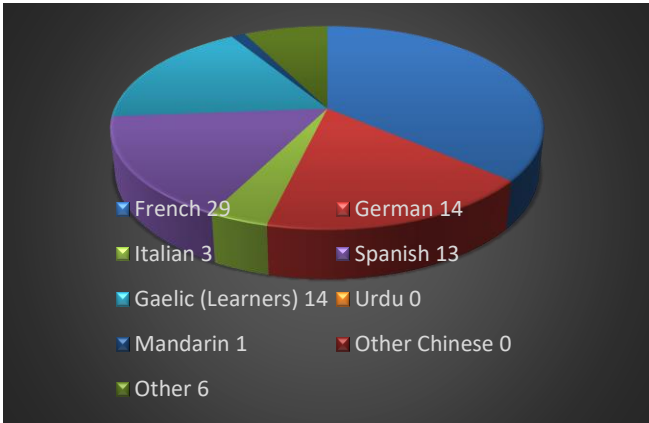
27) If you indicated 'Other' please tell us the other reasons why these schools are not providing an L3.

Won't timetable L3 at the expense of L2.  
Embedding L2 first.

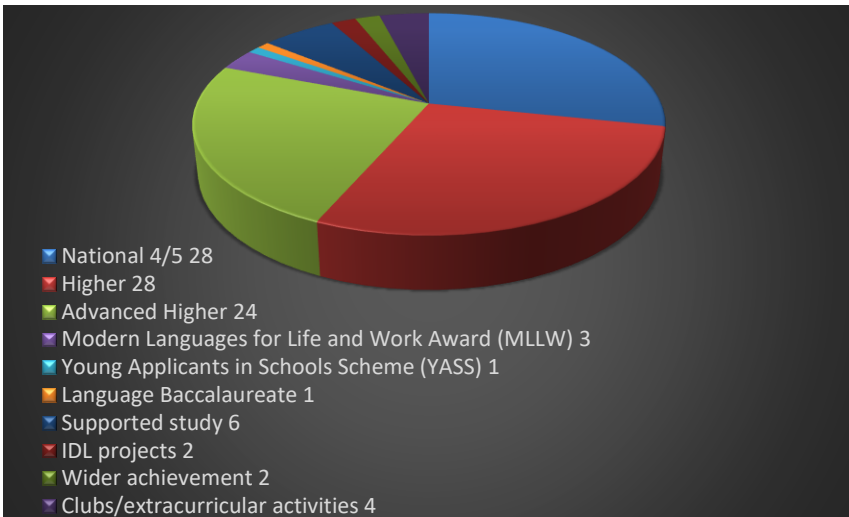
**Secondary ScotGov Survey 2018/19 – Senior Phase**

What languages are offered at Senior Phase?

Breakdown of other



What are the different opportunities available to Senior Pupils for learning languages?





L2 Survey								
Are you providing full L2 entitlement?	YES – 14 – 48%	NO – 15 – 52%						
Language choice of those providing full entitlement	French 48%	German 0	Italian 0	Spanish 0	Gaelic (L) 14%	Urdu 0	Mandarin 0	Other Chinese 0
OTHER from above	Gàidhlig 7							
Any providing more than 1 L2?	YES – 20%							
Of those not providing full entitlement of L2, why not?	Competing priorities 1-3%	Timetabling 9-31%	Staff availability 6-21%	Other 6-21%				
OTHER from above	<p>To summarise - Promotion of language diversity by offering different languages either in a compulsory way or by offering pupils the chance to choose the L2 at some point in the BGE, or switch the L2 for the L3. In some schools languages are not compulsory in S3. Here are some of the details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In S3, from December onwards, L3 is provided at the expense of L2.</li> <li>Pupils choose between Gaelic and French going into S3 and they then receive more contact time with the language they have chosen. This should assist with the numbers picking a language at Senior Phase.</li> <li>French is only an option and is not in any of the main columns unlike every other subject in the school.</li> <li>Pupil choice of language for the S3 year leads to a slightly better uptake for S4 onward. The other beneficial effect is increased motivation for language learning (evidenced by pupils survey).</li> </ul>							
For those not providing L2 full entitlement, how is it being delivered?	S1 only – 3 – 10%	S1 to S2 – 9 – 31%	Choice before S2 – 3 – 10%	Choice before S3 – 8 – 28%	Other – 3 – 10%			
OTHER for above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Languages are compulsory in S1-3 and in some schools there is more than 1 language on offer. There is a choice of the L2 language at some point in the BGE. It could be before starting S1, at the end of S1 or the end of S2. The L2 may not be continued throughout the BGE as pupils can choose to study the L3 studied in S1-2 instead of the L2, or they can pick up an entirely new language.</li> <li>Languages are compulsory in S1-3. Pupils do the same L2 for S1, S2 and Aug – Dec in S3, and then start a L3 and study this from Dec – June (instead of the L2) and the language choice is decided by the teacher.</li> <li>A Language is optional in S3 but if pupils choose a language they continue the same L2.</li> <li>A Language is optional in S3 but those who do not take it are given a mandatory 12 week Masterclass in learning a new language (Spanish or Mandarin) or in another school they have to do the Languages for Life and Word Award and do 1 element in the dropped language.</li> </ul>							

L3 Survey									
Are you providing full entitlement of L3?	YES- 19 – 66%	NO – 10 – 34%							
Language choice of those providing full entitlement	French 10 – 34%	German 7 – 24%	Italian 1 – 3%	Spanish 9 – 31%	Gaelic (L) 12 – 41%	Urdu 0	Mandarin 2 – 7%	Other Chinese 0	OTHER 7 – 24%
OTHER for above	BSL 1 - 3%	Latin 1 – 3%	Italian 1 – 3%	Gàidhlig 2 – 7%					
Are any providing more than 1 language?	YES – 15 – 52%								
Reasons for not providing full entitlement for L3	Competing priorities 3 – 10%	Timetabling 11 – 38%	Staff availability 12 – 41%	OTHER 2 – 7%					
OTHER for above	<p>Won't timetable L3 at the expense of L2. Embedding L2 first.</p>								
What stage are they providing L3	S1 only 2 – 7%	S2 only 0	S3 only 1 – 3%	S2 – S3 only 0	OTHER 17 – 59%				
Transition Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French is introduced in all ASG primaries. Previously, when there were two MFL teachers and it was possible to visit the primary schools. This has not been the case in recent years.</li> <li>Seamless as we are a 3-18 school. French and Gaelic (Learner and Fluent) are offered in Primary and French Gaelic (Learner and Fluent) are offered in Secondary.</li> <li>Gaelic transition morning in feeder schools.</li> <li>To date there hasn't been much communication between Primary and Secondary regarding languages however we have good links with the Gaelic primary school and always try to visit the pupils before induction week.</li> <li>Our secondary French teacher is liaising with the Primary schools in an effort to ensure consistency. Currently, the primaries are tasked with finishing the 'access studio' text before pupils come to secondary and begin Studio 1. We plan to identify time for our primary colleagues to have a session with our French Teacher for Moderation.</li> <li>PT INVOLVED IN TRAINING PRIMARY TEACHERS</li> <li>We are a combined group of schools, 3 primary schools and 1 high school. We work as one entity.</li> <li>limited success in building on prior knowledge. 3 transition days in May</li> </ul>								

## Transition Procedure Cont'd -

- Currently working with a primary colleague to ensure no overlap of topics covered. She is working with other primary colleagues in the ASG. Will all meet up at some point so on.
- SPECIALISTS IN PRIMARIES.
- It is not easy. However, 4 members of the department are currently involved in teaching languages in 4 primaries to cover CCR.
- If funding for mileage is withdrawn this becomes impossible in a remote area
- I can do statements from each pupil in primary, I meet with the ASG heads once a year during their ASG meeting. Posters provided by each pupil covering what they have done.
- My colleague is a language ambassador and deals with transition. He has just started this year but he is working hard to make sure all primaries deliver the same topics.
- Due to the ASG context (7 primaries), we do not feel that transition for ML is successful- we have tried to have meaningful contact with primaries but it has proved unsustainable. We have to do a revision unit for the first term of S1 to have a levelled playing field. meetings with ASG staff and visits to primaries
- We are a 3-18 school. This is currently an implementation year, so secondary staff have produced materials and we are currently delivering them in the primary classes, but with a view to primary staff taking over from next session.



Please ask for: Nicky Grant  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: gaelic@highland.gov.uk  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: LW/MSM  
Date: 6 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Would you like your child to be bilingual?  
Choose Gaelic Medium Education in the Highlands!**

At this time, you will be preparing to enrol your child to start school in August 2021. Enrolment for Primary 1 commences on Monday 25 January and concludes on Friday 29 January 2021. I would like to take the opportunity to advise you that Highland Council offers the benefits of bilingualism through Gaelic Medium Education at primary schools across the authority. The list of schools where Gaelic Medium Education is available is detailed below.

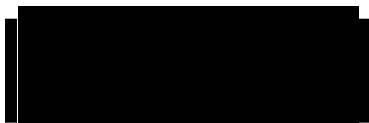
Languages are central to our cultural heritage and identity. To protect and promote the use of Gaelic, Highland Council commits to giving equal respect to Gaelic, alongside English. This is delivered on the basis that both languages are essential components of Highland life and recognises the educational, artistic, cultural, social and economic importance of Gaelic. This approach is underpinned by the twenty Highland primary schools that provide Gaelic Medium Education, which is essential to supporting our diverse and inclusive community.

The option of choosing the bilingual route is open to you, even if your child has not attended a Gaelic Medium Nursery. The Head Teacher of your local school, which provides Gaelic Medium Education, will be able to give you more information. They can arrange for you to speak with school staff, should this be of help to you. A bilingual information pack, '**Fios is Freagairt**', outlining the benefits of bilingual education and providing information on Gaelic Medium Education can be accessed at the following website: [www.parant.org.uk/pdfs/fisf.pdf](http://www.parant.org.uk/pdfs/fisf.pdf)


If considering Gaelic Medium Education, you may find it useful to watch the video, '**Fàs Foghlaim**', which helps to explain the benefits of bilingualism through Gaelic Medium Education. One contributor, Professor Antonella Sorace, University of Edinburgh gives an insight into how young children can pick up languages quickly and the skills a person can gain from learning more than one language. This video can be viewed at: [www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic](http://www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic)

Highland Council has been providing Gaelic Medium Education for over 30 years; I hope you take this opportunity to consider the benefits of Gaelic Medium Education. I wish your child every success on their learning journey.

Yours sincerely



**Nicky Grant**  
**ECO Education & Learning**

Faighnichibh airson: Nicky Ghrannnd  
Loidhne Dhìreach:   
Post-d: gaelic@highland.gov.uk  
Ur n-Àireamh-fiosrachaidh:  
Ar n-Àireamh-fiosrachaidh: LW/MSM  
Ceann-latha: 5 Faoilleach 2021

A Phàrant/Neach-cùraim Chòir,

**Am bu toil leibh gum biodh ur pàiste dà-chànanach?  
Taghaibh Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig sa Ghàidhealtachd!**

Aig an àm seo, bidh sibh ag ullachadh gus ur pàiste a chlàradh airson tòiseachadh san sgoil san Lùnastal 2021. Bidh clàradh airson Clas 1 a' tòiseachadh air Diluain 25 Faoilleach agus a' crìochnachadh air Dihaoine 29 Faoilleach 2021. Bu mhath leam an cothrom a ghabhail gus innse dhuibh gu bheil sgoiltean air feadh sgìre na Gàidhealtachd far a bheil Foghlam tron Ghaidhlig ri fhaighinn.

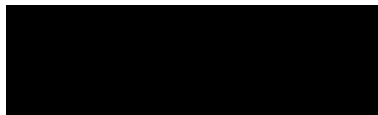
Tha cànanan aig teas-meadhan ar dualchais chultarail agus ar dearbh-aithne. Gus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a dhìon is a bhrosnachadh, tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' gealltainn gun toir i co-ionannachd spèis dhan Ghàidhlig, ri taobh na Beurla. Tha seo air a libhrigeadh air stèidh gu bheil an dà chànan nam pàirtean riatanach de bheatha na Gàidhealtachd agus ag aithneachadh gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig cudromach a thaobh foghlaim, ealain, cultair, agus nithean sòisealta is eaconamach. Tha an dòigh-obrach seo air a daingneachadh tron fhichead sgoil sa Ghàidhealtachd a tha a' tabhann Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, agus tha seo riatanach do bhith a' toirt taic dhan choimhearsnachd eadar-mheasgte agus in-ghabhaltach againn.

Tha an roghainn a thaobh a bhith a' taghadh na slighe dà-chànanaich fosgailte dhuibh, fiù 's ged nach biodh ur pàiste air a dhol gu Sgoil-àraich le Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig. Faodaidh Ceannard na sgoile ionadail agaibh, a tha a' tabhann Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, tuilleadh fiosrachaidh a thoirt dhuibh. Ma tha sibh airson bruidhinn ri luchd-obrach na sgoile, is urrainn dhan Cheannard sin a chur air dòigh ma thogras sibh. Faodaidh sibh pasgan fiosrachaidh dà-chànanach, '**Fios is Freagairt**', a lorg air loidhne [www.parant.org.uk/pdfs/fisf.pdf](http://www.parant.org.uk/pdfs/fisf.pdf).

Ma tha sibh a' beachdachadh air Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, 's dòcha gum bi e feumail dhuibh coimhead air a' bhidio '**Fàs Foghlaim**', a tha a' mìneachadh nam buannachdan a tha an lùib dà-chànanaich tro Fhoghlam tron Ghàidhlig. Tha aon neach-labhairt, an t-Ollamh Antonella Sorace bho Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann, a' breithneachadh air mar as urrainn do chloinn òga cànanan a thogail gu luath agus na sgilean a dh'fhaodas neach a thogail bho bhith ag ionnsachadh barrachd air aon chànan. Faodar am bhidio fhaicinn aig: [www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic](http://www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic)

Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air a bhith a' solarachadh Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig airson còrr is 30 bliadhna. Tha mi an dòchas gun gabh sibh an cothrom seo gus smaoinichadh air buannachdan Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig. Tha mi a' guidhe gach soirbheachas dhan phàiste agaibh air an t-slighe ionnsachaidh aca.

Le deagh dhùrachd,



**Nicky Grant**  
ECO Cùram & Ionnsachadh

# Bilingualism and Gaelic Medium Education

## Dà-chànanas agus Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig

Gaelic Medium Education is acknowledged through practice and research as a way of ensuring that children learn to speak Gaelic and reap the benefits of being bilingual from an early age. It is available to children from both Gaelic and non-Gaelic speaking homes. Enrolment to Gaelic Medium Education can take place at Primary 1 stage and in some circumstances at Primary 2, or thereafter, between Gaelic medium primary schools/departments. The Highland Council is a leading Local Authority and amongst the largest providers of Gaelic Medium Education nationally. Gaelic Medium Education represents one of the best means of reversing the decline of Gaelic in the Highlands, especially if it is supported by opportunities for young people to use Gaelic in the home and community. The Council is committed to continuing to develop Gaelic Medium Education in pre-school and primary schools, as well as expanding Gaelic Medium Education in the secondary sector. The benefits of Gaelic Medium Education and bilingualism are highlighted in the video, 'Fàs Foghlaim', [www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic](http://www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic)

Gaelic Medium Education is provided in 20 primary schools across the Council area (detailed below). We also continue to develop Gaelic Learning through English Medium Education, through the provision of a Primary Language Learning programme. Gaelic Medium subject teaching and Gaelic language courses, for both fluent speakers and/or learners are offered in a total of 20 secondary schools. The Gaelic Medium Education map on our website ([www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/18/gaelic\\_medium\\_education](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/18/gaelic_medium_education)) provides information regarding all provision across the Highlands. In addition, we also provide support for parents and other learners in communities through a coordinated system of adult tuition, including a progressive tuition plan.

If you would like further information on Gaelic, contact your Area Care and Learning Office or e-mail: [gaelic@highland.gov.uk](mailto:gaelic@highland.gov.uk)

Acharacle Primary School  
Broadford Primary School  
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis  
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar  
Bun-Sgoil Shlèite  
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh  
Craighill Primary School

Dingwall Primary School  
Dunvegan Primary School  
Gairloch Primary School  
Glenurquhart Primary School  
Kilmuir Primary School  
Lochcarron Primary School  
Mallaig Primary School

Millbank Primary School  
Mount Pleasant Primary School  
Newtonmore Primary School  
Plockton Primary School  
Staffin Primary School  
Ullapool Primary School



# Dà-chànanas agus Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig

Tha Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig (FtG) air a dhearbhadh tro chleachdadh is rannsachadh mar dhòigh air dèanamh cinnteach gun ionnsaich clann Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn agus gum faigh iad na buannachdan a thig an lùib dà-chànanais aig aois òg. Tha e fosgailte do chloinn bho dhachannan Gàidhlig agus do chloinn aig nach eil Gàidhlig san dachaigh. Faodar clàrachadh gu FtG aig ìre Clas 1 agus ann an cuid de shuidheachaidhean aig Clas 2, no às dèidh sin eadar sgoiltean/chlasaichean FtG. Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd am measg nan ùghdarrasan ionadail as adhartaike an Alba a thaobh FtG. Tha FtG a' riochdachadh an dòchais as motha a th' againn airson crìonadh na Gàidhlig a chur am feabhas air Ghàidhealtachd, gu h-àraid ma tha taic ann tro chothroman do dh'òigridh a bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig san dachaigh agus sa choimhearsnachd. Tha a' Chomhairle dealasach a thaobh leantainn le leasachadh FtG aig ìre ro-sgoile agus ìre na bun-sgoile cho math ri leudachadh a thoirt air FtG aig ìre na h-àrd-sgoile. Tha buannachdan Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig agus dà-chànanais air an toirt am follais sa bhidio 'Fàs Foghlaim': [www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic](http://www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic)

Tha Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig air a thabhan ann am 20 bun-sgoil air feadh sgìre na Comhairle (fiosrachadh gu h-ìseal). Tha sinn cuideachd a' sìor leasachadh Ionnsachadh Gàidhlig tro Fhoghlam tron Bheurla, tro sholar prògram Ionnsachadh Cànan sa Bhun-sgoil. Tha cuspairean air an teagasg tron Ghàidhlig agus cùrsaichean cànan Gàidhlig, an dà chuid do dh'fhileantaich is/no luchd-ionnsachaidh, air an tabhan ann an 20 àrd-sgoiltean uile gu lèir.

Tha am mapa Foghlaim Gàidhlig air an làrach-lìn againn:

([www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/18/gaelic\\_medium\\_education](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/18/gaelic_medium_education)) a' toirt fiosrachadh mu sholar air fad air feadh na Gàidhealtachd. Tha sinn cuideachd a' toirt taic do phàrantan is do luchd-ionnsachaidh eile ann an coimhearsnachdan tro shiostam co-òrdanaichte de dh'oideachadh inbheach, a' gabhail a-steach plana oideachaidh adhartach.

Ma tha sibh ag iarraidh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mun Ghàidhlig, cuiribh fios gu Oifis Cùraim agus Ionnsachaidh na Sgìre agaibh no cuiribh post-d gu: [gaelic@highland.gov.uk](mailto:gaelic@highland.gov.uk)

Bun-Sgoil Àth Tharracail

Bun-Sgoil an Àth Leathainn

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar

Bun-Sgoil Shlèite

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh

Bun-Sgoil Chnoc na Creige

Bun-Sgoil Inbhir Pheofharain

Bun-Sgoil Dhùn Bheagain

Bun-Sgoil Gheàrrloch

Bun-Sgoil Ghlinn Urchadain

Bun-Sgoil Chille Mhoire

Bun-Sgoil Loch Carrann

Bun-Sgoil Mhalaig

Bun-Sgoil Bhruaich na Muilne

Bun-Sgoil Mount Pleasant

Bun-Sgoil Bhaile Ùr an t-Slèibh

Bun-Sgoil a' Phluic

Bun-Sgoil Stafainn

Bun-Sgoil Ullapuil

