

Gaelic Medium catchment area for Newtonmore Primary School

Comann nam Pàrant welcomes the formalisation of a school catchment area for Gaelic Medium Education (GME) in the Newtonmore area.

The proposal is in keeping with Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education which recommends that local authorities establish catchments with reasonable travelling distances, and with the potential to attract parents to GME.

The setting of a catchment area will provide clarification for parents on their entitlement to GME, and although this is not the equivalent of having provision in each locality, we hope it will encourage more families to consider GME.

Although we agree with the setting of the catchment, should parents in the catchments of any of the other associated schools submit a request in the future for GME in line with the Education Act (Scotland) 2016, we trust that Highland Council will follow the process for requests as set out in Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education.

The proposal includes a formalisation of GM secondary provision in Kingussie High School. We welcome this and hope this will bring an expansion of GM secondary teaching within the High School with more opportunities for GM pupils to continue their Gaelic medium education through to the senior phase.

We also welcome the extension to the nursery at Newtonmore Primary and hope this will mean delivery of 1140 hours in Gaelic which has the potential to attract more families to GME.

M. Wentworth
2 Sultain 2021