



FOGHLAM GÀIDHLIG: AN T-SLIGHE AIR ADHART

Ro-ràdh

Ghabh Comataidh Foghlaim, Cultair agus Spòrs Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd ris an ro-innleachd seo air 14 Samhain 2002.

Foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig

- Ged a tha foghlaim Gàidhlig uile cudromach, tha foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air a mheas mar an dòchas as fheàrr airson na Gàidhlig agus mar sin bidh prìomhachas aige.
- Thèid na dòighean a leanas a chur an gnìomh gus a leasachadh, anns an òrdagh prìomhachais seo
 - a) daingneachadh na seirbheis a tha ann mu thràth
 - b) freagairt iarrtasan an àitichean ùra
 - c) brosnachadh foghlam tron Ghàidhlig ann an àitichean ùra.



Gaelic Education and Early Years Strategy

Background

The strategy was adopted by the Education, Culture and Sport Committee of the Highland Council on November 14 2002.

Gaelic medium education

- While all Gaelic education is important, Gaelic medium education is seen as the best hope for the survival of Gaelic and therefore remains the main priority.
- The following approaches will be adopted to its development, in the priority order set out below
 - a) consolidating existing provision
 - b) reacting positively to demand for new provision
 - c) promoting Gaelic medium education in new areas.

Foghlam ro aois sgoile agus cùram chloinne

- Tha a' Chomhairle a' cur roimpe a bhith air thoiseach ann a bhith a' cur foghlam ro-sgoile agus cùram-chloinne Ghàidhlig air adhart.
- Cuiridh i air bhonn foghlam ro-sgoile Ghàidhlig, tro sgoiltean-àraich agus cròileagain fhastaichte, ann an sgìrean far a bheil clasaichean bunsgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig mu thràth no far a bheil dùil ri clas a dh'aithghearr.
- Bheir i taic dhan Ghàidhlig cuideachd, tro a seirbheis cùram chloinne, le obair le cloinn agus teaghlaichean san dachaigh.

Foghlam bunsgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig

- Leanaidh a' Chomhairle a' freagairt iarrtasan airson foghlam tron Ghàidhlig le deagh rùn, air chùmhnannt gu bheil àireamh chloinne chuimseach (4 sa bhliadhna), tidsear agus rùm ann.
- Bidh foghlam Gàidhlig a' leantainn ri poileasaidh na Comhairle airson compàirteachadh ann am foghlaim.
- Bidh foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig sa chumantas air a liubhart mar chlasaicheann anns na sgoiltean a tha ann mu thràth.
- Thèid beachdachadh air Sgoiltean Gàidhlig a chur air chois far a bheil sin comasach.

Gaelic medium pre-school and childcare

- The Council will seek to take the initiative in the development of Gaelic pre-school and childcare provision.
- It will provide Gaelic pre-school education, through nursery classes or commissioned playgroups, in areas in which Gaelic medium primary classes exist now or where a decision in principle has been taken to set up such a class.
- It will continue to develop means, through its childcare services, of supporting Gaelic in the home.

Gaelic medium primary

- The Council will continue to respond positively to parental demand for Gaelic medium primary education, subject to viable numbers (four each year) and availability of staff and accommodation.
- The Council policy of inclusive education will be embraced in its provision for Gaelic medium education.
- GME will usually be delivered as 'departments' of classes within existing schools.
- Consideration will be given to setting up free-standing Gaelic Primary Schools wherever this is considered feasible.

- Ann an sgoiltean le foghlaim san dà chànan
 - bu chòir an aon seasamh a bhith a' Bheurla agus a' Ghàidhlig
 - bu chòir do cheanglaichean eadar clasaichean Beurla agus Gàidhlig a bhith a' ruith an dà thaobh
 - bu chòir do chloinn a bith air am bogadh sa Ghàidhlig uimhir 's a tha comasach ann an sgoil sa bheil dà chànan.
- Leantar a' toirt còmh-dhail an asgaidh do sgoilearan ann am foghlam bunsgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, an taobh a-staigh de astar reusanta.
- Leantar air adhart leis a' phroiseact rannsachaidh air foghlam pàirt-thìde tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an coimhearsneachdan beaga agus thèid a mheasadh le sùil ri a leudachadh gu sgìrean eile.

Foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig san àrdsgoil

- Nì a' Chomhairle a h-uile oidhirp air seirbheis a thoirt seachad aig co-dhiù an ìre a leanas ann an àrdsgoiltean le sgoilearan a thàinig tron Gàidhlig sa bhunsgoil
 - clasaichean air leth sa Ghàidhlig a bheir sgoilearan chun nan deuchainnean 'Gàidhlig' aig an Ìre Choitcheann is 'Higher Still'
 - prògram teagaisg chuspairean - a' cleachdadh luchd-obrach pàirt-thìde no làn-thìde, tidsearan-siubhail agus foghlam-aig-astar stèidhte air ICT - a' gabhail a-staigh co-dhiù aon chuspair as gach tè de na raointean seo:

- In dual-language schools
 - English and Gaelic should have equality of status
 - integration between the English medium and Gaelic medium classes should be a two-way process
 - the principle of total immersion in Gaelic should be applied to the fullest degree possible in a dual language school.
- Free transport will continue to be provided for children attending Gaelic medium primary education, from within a reasonable travelling distance.
- The pilot project on delivery of part-time Gaelic medium education in small rural communities will continue and will be evaluated with a view to its being replicated in other areas.

Gaelic medium secondary

- The Council will urgently seek to make the following minimum level of provision in the secondary schools designated as the receiving schools for Gaelic medium pupils
 - separate Gaelic language classes leading to the Standard Grade and Higher Still exams in Gàidhlig
 - a programme of Gaelic medium subject teaching - through use of part time, fulltime or peripatetic staff and of distance learning based on ICT - to include at least one subject from each of the following curricular areas:

- Sòisealta: Eachdraidh, Cruinn-Eòlas, Nuadh-Eòlas
 - Dèanadach: Saidheans, Matamataig, Cruinn-Eòlas, Teicneòlas, Ealain
 - Cuspairean mar PSE, RME no roghainn de chùrsaichean goirid SEED.
- Misnichear sgoiltean gus barrachd chuspairean a theagasg na seo mas urrainn dhaibh agus gus an cumail a' dol nas fhaide suas tron sgoil.
 - Ann an sgoiltean le clasaichean tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, bu chòir gum biodh *ambience* dà-chànanach san sgoil.

Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig: Taic

- Bheir a' Chomhairle taic do phàrantan, tro Fhoghlaim Coimhearsneachd agus Chur-seachadan agus tro Sheirbheis nam Bliadhnaichean Tràth, tro bhith a' cur air chois
 - clasaichean Gàidhlig
 - coinneamhan fiosrachaidh
 - seirbheis iasaid stuth-taic.

Thèid na seirbheisean a dhealbh an dòigh a fhreagras air pàrantan.

- Social Subjects: History, Geography or Modern Studies
- Practical: Science, Maths, Geography, Technological Studies, Home Economics or Art
- Subjects such as PSE, RME or a selection of the SEED 'short course' packs.

- Schools will be actively encouraged to exceed the minimum level, both in terms of the range of subjects taught and also of the stages covered.
- Schools with Gaelic medium classes should strive to create a bilingual ambience in the school environment.

Gaelic medium education: Support

- The Council will provide advice and support to parents, chiefly through the Community Learning and Leisure and the Early Years Services, by providing
 - Gaelic classes
 - information meetings
 - a resource lending service.

These services will be designed to reflect parents' circumstances.

- Brosnaichidh a' Chomhairle pàrantan agus coimhearsneachd na Gàidhlig a thaobh taic a thoirt anns an dachaigh agus a' choimhearsneachd dhan obair a tha na sgoiltean a' dèanamh ann a bhith ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig dhan chloinn.
 - Sirear dòighean air beachdan phàrantan fhaighinn ann an dòigh a bhios cuideachail dhan dà thaobh gus buannachd fhaighinn as an eòlas a tha aca air an t-siostam.
 - Cuiridh a' Chomhairle tachartasan air dòigh airson gum faigh sgoilearan ann am foghlam tron Ghàidhlig cothrom air Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn ri fileantaich, òg agus aosta, an taobh a-muigh dhan sgoil, ach feuchaidh i gu sònraichte ri pàrantan agus buidhnean Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh gus barrachd dhan seo a chur air adhart.
 - Siridh a' Chomhairle ris na leanas a chur air dòigh
 - clubaichean dèidh-sgoile an àitichean le foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig sa bhunsgoil
 - campaichean-sgoile fad seachdanach airson sgoilearan san àrdsgoil
 - tachartasan anns na sgoiltean a bheir cothrom do sgoilearan a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh ann an suidhichidhean ùra.
 - A thuilleadh air a seo, cuiridh an t-Seirbheis Foghlaim Coimhearsneachd agus Chur-seachadan air chois tachartasan eile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig dhan òigridh agus bheir iad taic do rudan dhan t-seòrsa seo a chuirear air chois le buidhnean eile.
 - The Council will seek a partnership with parents and the Gaelic community, with a view to encouraging and enabling them to provide support in the home and community for the work of the schools.
 - In particular, it will seek to set up mechanisms for regular, constructive dialogue with parents in order to benefit from their experience of the system.
 - In order to enable Gaelic medium pupils to interact with fluent Gaelic speakers, young and old, outwith the school environment, the Council itself will seek to provide extra-curricular activities in Gaelic but it will particularly encourage parents and Gaelic organisations to develop this kind of provision.
 - The Council will aim to
 - provide after-school clubs in areas with Gaelic medium primary classes
 - run week-long 'residential schools' for secondary Gaelic medium pupils
 - encourage schools to arrange activities which enable pupils to use Gaelic in new contexts.
- In addition, the Community Learning and Leisure Service will run a range of Gaelic medium activities and its staff will offer a support/co-ordination role in relation to activities initiated by others.

- Bheir na sgoiltean fiosrachadh do phàrantan mu fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig mus clàr iad an clann san sgoil (aig ìre ro-sgoile agus bunsgoile), airson dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil fiosrachadh gu leòr aca airson roghainn chothromach a dhèanamh. Nì a' Chomhairle bileag follaiseachaidh airson seo. Brosnaichear Comann nam Pàrant agus buidhnean eile gus pàirt a ghabhail ann am foillseachadh foghlam tron Gàidhlig anns na sgìrean fa leth.
- A bharrachd air seo, cuirear air chois taisbeanaidhean ann an aithean fa leth, a h-uile trì bliadhna, gus an àireamh anns na clasaichean Gàidhlig a mheudachadh. Nithear seo le Seirbheis Foghlam Coimhearsneachd agus Chur-seachadan.
- Nithear brosnachadh dhan t-seòrsa seo ann an àithean ùra cuideachd, cho fad 's a bhios lorg air tidsear agus air rùm san sgoil agus nach eil cunnart gun dèanar cron air na clasaichean a tha ann mu thràth.
- Bidh taic airson cùram chloinne agus foghlam ro-sgoile Ghàidhlig, anns an dachaigh agus a' choimhearsneachd, air a cho-òrdanachadh le oifigear leasachaidh ro-sgoile Ghàidhlig, ag obrachadh an co-bhoinn ri buidhnean eile. Bidh taic agus Leasachadh Feabhais airson foghlaim tron Ghàidhlig sa bhunsgoil agus an àrdscoil air a cho-òrdanachadh le Oifigeach Leasachadh (Gàidhlig).
- Cuiridh Seirbheis Foghlam Coimhearsneachd agus Chur-seachadan na Comhairle prògram sònraichte air chois de obair a bheir taic do fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig gach ìre agus nì iad oidhirp cuideachd air cur-seachadan Gàidhlig a thabhann tro phrograman cumanta na Seirbheis.
- Schools with Gaelic medium education will inform all parents of the availability of this provision prior to their enrolling children in school (at the pre-school and primary stages), ensuring that the parents have the necessary information to inform their choice. The Council will produce a promotional leaflet for this purpose. Comann nam Pàrant branches and others will be encouraged to play a part in promoting Gaelic medium education locally.
- In addition to this ongoing promotion, there will be special events in areas with Gaelic medium classes, aimed at increasing intakes. These will be organised by the Community Learning and Leisure Service and will run on a three-yearly basis.
- Promotional campaigns will also be launched in selected new areas, subject to a reasonable likelihood of teaching staff and accommodation being available and of there being no negative impact on existing provision.
- Support for Gaelic childcare and pre-school provision, both in the home/family and the community, will be co-ordinated by a fulltime Gaelic pre-school development officer, working in collaboration with other agencies. Support and Quality Assurance for Gaelic medium primary and secondary education will be co-ordinated by a Quality Development Officer (Gaelic).
- The Community Learning and Leisure Service will aim to provide a special programme of activities in support of Gaelic medium education at all levels and will also aim to offer Gaelic activities through its routine provision.

- Ann a bhith a' cur na h-obrach seo an gnìomh, siridh a' Chomhairle dòighean air co-obrachadh le buidhnean eile, leithid ùghdarrasan ionadail eile, cròileagain fhastaichte, UHI-MI agus Bòrd Gàidhlig na h-Alba.

Teagasg na Gàidhlig mar dara cànan

- Gabhaidh na bunsgoiltean a tha co-cheangailte ri àrdsgoiltean Phort Rìgh, a' Phluic, Loch Abair, Gheàrrloch, Aird nam Murchain agus a' Bhlàrain Odhair pàirt ann am prògram GLPS [Gàidhlig airson luchd-ionnsachaidh sa bhunsgoil]. As dèidh an trèanadh agus an stuth-teagaisg iomchaidh fhaighinn, bithear a' sùileachadh orra a' Ghàidhlig a theagasg mar dhara cànan an taobh a-staigh de Phrògram Ionnsachaidh agus Teagaisg Ghàidhlig na Comhairle.
- Gabhaidh na bunsgoiltean a tha co-cheangailte ris na sia h-àrdsgoiltean air àrainn Inbhir Nis sa bheil a' Ghàidhlig pàirt sa phrògram, 'Introduction to Gaelic' an àite GLPS. Bidh an cuideam air teagasg mu dheidhinn cultar na Gàidhlig, a' cleachdadh pac teagaisg a nithear a dh'aon ghothaich. Sirear dòighean air taic a thoirt do sgoiltean le seo, nam measg tidsearan-taic.
- Bidh cothrom aig sgoilearan ann an sgoiltean far a bheil foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig cuideachd air ionnsachadh mun Ghàidhlig agus cultar na Gàidhlig.
- Far a bheil aig sgoilearan ri roghainn a dhèanamh eadar a' Ghàidhlig agus Frangais air AS1 agus far nach eil ach Frangais air a teagasg sa bhunsgoil, feuchaidh na bunsgoiltean ri dèanamh suas airson seo ann an dòighean iomchaidh gus an urrainn na sgoilearan tighinn gu co-dhùnadh reusanta. Faodaidh seo a bhith a' gabhail a-steach 'Introduction to Gaelic', toirt cunntas cothromach air an dà

- In all of the above the Council will seek to work in partnership with other agencies including other local authorities, service providers such as its pre-school partner centres, UHI-MI and the new Bòrd Gàidhlig na h-Alba.

Second language teaching

- The primary schools associated with Portree, Plockton, Lochaber, Gairloch, Ardnamurchan and Farr High Schools will take part in the GLPS [Gaelic for Learners in the Primary School] programme, receiving the appropriate training and teaching materials and thereafter teaching Gaelic as a second language within the framework of the Council's Gaelic Learning and Teaching Programme.
- The primary schools associated with the six East Coast schools in which Gaelic is taught will take part in the 'Introduction to Gaelic' programme instead. The emphasis in this will be on teaching pupils about Gaelic and Gaelic culture, using a new teaching pack designed for this purpose. Ways will be explored of supporting schools with this, including the use of visiting support teachers.
- Provision will also be made, through 'Introduction to Gaelic', for English medium pupils in schools with Gaelic medium education to learn about Gaelic and Gaelic culture.
- Where pupils are required to choose between Gaelic and French in S1 but where only French is taught in the primary sector, primary schools will seek to redress the balance in appropriate ways so that their pupils can make a properly informed choice. This will include participation in the 'Introduction to Gaelic' programme, providing impartial advice on the advantages of the respective languages,

chànan no a' toirt cuireadh do thidsearan Gàidhlig na h-àrdsgoile tighinn gam faicinn.

- Leanaidh teagasg na Gàidhlig mar dhara cànan a bhith stèidhte anns na 12 àrdsgoiltean sa bheil i air a teagasg an-dràsta. Siridh a' Chomhairle a' Ghàidhlig a theagasg do na sgoilearan as sine ann an sgoiltean eile tro fhoghlam aig-astar. Ma bhios sgoiltean ùra ag iarraidh tòiseachaidh air a' Ghàidhlig, gheibh iad taic le seo.
- An Àrdsgoiltean Port Rìgh agus a' Phluic, bidh a h-uile sgoilear air AS1/2 a' gabhail Gàidhlig. Faodaidh sgoiltean eile seo a thoirt a-steach ma tha a h-uile duine ris a bheil e a' buntainn a' gabhail ris.
- Bu chòir do gach àrdsgoil sa bheil a' Ghàidhlig air a teagasg an clàr-ama a rèiteach air dhòigh 's gun urrainn sgoilearan a' Ghàidhlig agus cànan Eòrpach eile ionnsachadh air AS1 agus gum bi an cothrom aig sgoilearan aig ceann àrd na sgoile tòiseachadh air a' Ghàidhlig. Mura bi e comasach cùrsa shlàn a dhèanamh air AS1, bu chòir do sgoiltean co-dhiù 'blasad' dhan Ghàidhlig fhaighinn.
- Thèid sgoilearan a thòisich ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig ann an sgoiltean Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a bhrosnachadh gu leantainn orra leis a' chànan, mar eisimpleir tro chùrsaichean bogaidh no dòighean iomchaidh eile.

Foghlam Inbheach

- Leanaidh clasaichean-oidhche - nam measg clasaichean sgrìobhaidh do fhileantaich - ma tha iarrtas orra, mar phàirt de obair chunbhalach na Comhairle.

inviting their local secondary Gaelic teacher to visit the school or any other appropriate means.

- The teaching of Gaelic as a second language will continue to centre on the 12 secondary schools in which it is taught now. The Council will explore the option of offering Gaelic to senior pupils in other schools through open and distance learning. Schools considering introducing Gaelic will be helped to do so.
- In Portree and Plockton High Schools, all pupils will continue to take Gaelic as a subject in S1/2. Others may follow if local stakeholders request it.
- All secondary schools where Gaelic is available should arrange their timetables to offer pupils an opportunity to study both Gaelic and another modern European language in S1 and to offer pupils at the top end of the school the option of beginning Gaelic. If it is not possible to offer the ideal of a regular Gaelic class in S1, schools should provide 'taster' courses.
- Pupils who have started to learn Gaelic in Highland Council secondary schools will be encouraged to continue to develop their competence in it, for example through immersion courses or other appropriate means.

Adult Education

- Leisure classes in Gaelic - including literacy classes for native speakers - will continue to be provided where there is demand, as part of the Council's overall adult education provision.

- Feuchaidh Seirbheis Foghlaim Coimhearsneachd agus Chur-seachadan na Comhairle a-mach dòighean ùra air a' Ghàidhlig a theagasg do inbhich. Feuchar cuideachd ri obair nan diofar bhuidhnean a cho-òrdanachadh nan aon sheirbheis.

Tidsearan

- Leanaidh a' Chomhairle a' cluiche pàirt chudromach ann an leasaichidhean nàiseanta a tha ag amas air barrachd thidsearan Gàidhlig a chruthachadh, an co-bhonn ri ùghdarrasan eile agus ri buidhnean mar SEED, GTCS, roinnean foghlaim nan oilthighean agus UHI. Bidh seo a' gabhail a-steach iomairt brosnachaidh nàiseanta, trèanadh ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, rannsachadh, trèanadh thidsearan air a' Ghàidhealtachd, sgoiltean a' gabhail pàirt ann an trèanadh thidsearan agus leasaichidhean eile ag amas air barrachd luchd Gàidhlig a thàladh gu teagasg.
- Siridh a' Chomhairle, an co-bhonn ris an Riaghaltas Albannach, dòighean eile leithid a bhith tabhann taic do thidsearan agus a bhith a' cur thidsearan a tha ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig tro chùrsaichean bogaidh. Bheirear cuideachd sùil air na cothroman a tha aig tidsearan air faighinn air adhart ann am foghlam Gàidhlig. Bheirear molaidhean fa chomhair na Comataidh Rèiteachaidh airson Thidsearan fo sgiath aithisg McCrone.
- Ann an àrdsgoiltean a tha a' frithealadh air sgoilearan a thàinig tro fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, feuchaidh a' Chomhairle ri tidsearan le Gàidhlig fhastadh tro bhith a' comharradh obraichean mar 'Gaelic desirable'. Tachraidh seo cuideachd le obraichean eile anns a h-uile sgoil sa bheil foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

- The Council's Community Learning and Leisure Service will develop new approaches to teaching Gaelic to adults. It will also seek to co-ordinate the services offered by the various agencies into one coherent pattern of provision.

Teacher supply

- The authority will continue to play a leading role in national initiatives aimed at increasing the number of Gaelic speaking teachers. This will involve collaboration with other authorities and agencies such as SEED, GTCS, the university education faculties and UHI. This may include a national promotional campaign, Gaelic medium training courses, research, local delivery of training courses, involvement of schools as partners in providing teacher training and other measures aimed at facilitating access to teacher training for Gaelic speakers.
- The Council, in collaboration with the Scottish Executive, will explore approaches such as offering incentives in kind to Gaelic medium teachers and putting learner teachers through immersion courses. It will also review the opportunities for promotion in Gaelic and Gaelic medium teaching. Proposals will be taken to the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers as part of the McCrone settlement review.
- In secondary schools with Gaelic medium pupils, the Council will seek to recruit Gaelic speaking subject teachers by designating vacant posts as 'Gaelic desirable'. This also applies to other vacancies in all schools with GME.

Ionnsachadh agus Teagasg

- Bheir a' Chomhairle taic do fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig gach ìre ann an dòighean iomchaidh, nam measg gabhail pàirt ann an ullachadh stuthan-teagaisg (tro phroiseactan ionadail agus nàiseanta), trèanadh, stèidheachadh cheanglaichean agus a' feuchainn a-mach ICT.

Learning and Teaching

- The Council will aim to support the Gaelic medium curriculum in primary and secondary schools in appropriate ways, including participation in the provision of resources (through local and national projects), staff development, creating networks and exploring the relevance of ICT.

**APPENDIX:
CÙISEAN INBHE AGUS COTHROMACHD
ANN AM FOGHLAM TRO MHEADHAN NA GÀIDHLIG**

Amasan

'S e amasan an stiùiridh air 'Cùisean Inbhe agus Cothromachd ann am Foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig'

- suidheachadh a chruthachadh far a bheil luchd na Gàidhlig agus na Beurla ann an coimhearsnachd na sgoile - sgoilearan, tidsearan agus pàrantan - a' faireachdainn gu bheil an aon luach air a chur orra agus air na tha iad a' dèanamh
- suidheachadh dà-chànanach a tha cothromach, rèidh a stèidheachadh anns an sgoil.

Priomh phrionnsabail

Ann am bunsgoiltean le clasaichean tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig

- bu chòir an aon seasamh a bhith a' Bheurla agus a' Ghàidhlig anns an sgoil
- bu chòir do cheanglaichean eadar clasaichean Beurla agus Gàidhlig a bhith a' ruith an dà rathad
- bu chòir do chloinn a bith air am bogadh sa Ghàidhlig uimhir 's a tha comasach ann an sgoil sa bheil dà chànan air a cleachdadh.

**APPENDIX:
ISSUES OF STATUS AND ETHOS IN GAELIC MEDIUM
EDUCATION**

Aims

The aims of the guidelines on Issues of Status and Ethos are to enable schools with Gaelic medium classes to

- achieve a situation where both English medium and Gaelic medium members of the school community - pupils, teachers and parents - feel that their contribution to the school is equally valued
- provide a balanced and harmonious bilingual environment in the school.

General principles

In primary schools with Gaelic medium classes

- English and Gaelic should have equal status in the school environment
- integration between the English medium and Gaelic medium classes should be a two-way process
- the principle of immersion in Gaelic should be applied to the fullest degree that is possible in the context of a dual language school.

Briathrachas

- Bu chòir sgaradh a chleachdadh an fhacail 'mainstream' airson clasaichean tro mheadhan na Beurla ann an sgoiltean on e a tha e a' cur ris a' bheachd nach eil a' Ghàidhlig cho cudromach. Bu chòir bruidhinn orra mar 'clasaichean tro mheadhan na Beurla'.
- Bu chòir bruidhinn air clasaichean tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig còmhla mar 'Roinnean' an taobh a-staigh na sgoile an àite 'aonadan' airson sealltainn gu bheil iad nan làn-phàirt dhan sgoil ach gu bheil iad eadar-dhealaichte cuideachd. Mar sin, canar gu bheil Roinn Gàidhlig agus Roinn Bheurla anns na sgoiltean.

Beachdan

Bidh uaireannan tidsearan agus pàrantan ann an sgoiltean le foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a' faireachdainn gu bheil aon bhuidheann nas fheàrr dheth na a' bhuidheann eile. Mar eisimpleir, bidh tidsearan agus pàrantan nan clasaichean tro mheadhan na Beurla a' smaoinichadh 's dòcha gu bheil barrachd airgid aig na clasaichean Gàidhlig, fhad 's a bhios tidsearan nan clasaichean tron Ghàidhlig a' gearain nach eil iad a' faighinn an aon chothrom air seirbheisean mar taic ionnsachaidh no, uaireannan, nach eil am feumalachdan a' faighinn èisteachd idir.

Airson dèanamh cinnteach gum bi spiorad co-obrachaidh anns an sgoil, tha e cudromach gum bi luchd-stiùiridh nan sgoiltean fosgailte nan deiligidh ris na gnòthaichean seo agus, mar eisimpleir, gun caith iad tìde a' mìneachadh carson a tha foghlam anns na mion-chànanan a' feumachdainn barrachd taic agus, air an làimh eile, nach e mì-rùn a thaobh na Gàidhlig a tha air cùl a h-uile gearain o luchd na Beurla.

Terminology

- Use of the term 'mainstream' for the English medium section of schools should be discontinued as it reinforces perceptions that Gaelic is less important: 'English medium' should be used instead.
- Gaelic medium classes within a school should be referred to collectively as 'departments' rather than 'units' to emphasise that they are an integral part of the school but that they also have a distinct identity. Schools will therefore be described as having both English medium and Gaelic medium departments.

Perceptions

Perceptions can sometimes arise in schools with Gaelic medium education that one group is being treated more favourably than the other. English medium teachers and parents sometimes refer critically to Gaelic teachers having extra funding and smaller classes, for example, and Gaelic medium teachers sometimes complain that they do not have equal access to services such as Support for Learning or indeed that their needs generally are being ignored.

If a positive ethos is to be maintained in such circumstances it is important for school managements to be open in their dealings with all staff and parents and to spend time explaining why minority language education needs additional funding, for example, or why on the other hand apparent discrimination is not always what it seems.

Bogadh anns a' Ghàidhlig

- Bu chòir amas air sgoilearan Gàidhlig a bhogadh sa Ghàidhlig uimhir 's a ghabhas, anns a' chlasrum agus air feadh na sgoile.
- Cha bu chòir Beurla a chleachdadh airson sgoilearan tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a theagasg ach ann an clasaichean air an gabhail le tidsearan-siubhail gun Ghàidhlig - taobh a-muigh an rùm Ghàidhlig ma ghabhas - agus, rè ùine, bu chòir feuchainn ri tidsearan-siubhail fhastadh as urrainn teagasg san dà chànan.
- Airson gum bi sgoilearan a' cluinntinn na Gàidhlig uimhir 's a ghabhas, bu chòir do luchd-obrach le Gàidhlig, nam measg luchd-taic mar dorsairean agus clèirich, a' chànan a bhruidhinn riutha uimhir 's a ghabhas, sa sgoil agus ann an suidhichidhean sòisealta. Air an adhbhar seo, bu chòir do shanasan obraichean comas a' Ghàidhlig a bhruidhinn a chomharrachadh mar "buannachd".

Tachartasan sgoile

- A thaobh co-thionalan, coinneamhan, cruinnichidhean sòisealta agus cur-seachadan, faodaidh a leithid sin a bhith ann airson na Gàidhlig agus na Beurla air leth, aon rud a bhith ann airson na dhà, no, an rud a b' fheàrr, beagan dhan dà chuid a bhith ann.
- Ma tha aon thachartas ann airson na sgoile air fad, bu chòir dhan a seo a bhith dà-chànanach, an dà chuid a thaobh brìgh agus na cànan a tha air a cleachdadh airson a ruith. Bu chòir a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh airson adhabharan sònraichte - mar eisimpleir, airson naidheachdan a' buntainn gu mòr ris na clasaichean Gàidhlig, le gearr-chunntasan goirid Beurla airson luchd na Beurla. Bu chòir an dà chànan a chur gu feum gu mun aon ìre.

Gaelic immersion

- Schools should aim to immerse Gaelic medium pupils as fully as possible in Gaelic, in the classroom and through the school.
- The use of English to teach Gaelic medium pupils should be confined to classes taught by non Gaelic speaking visiting teachers - ideally outwith the Gaelic medium classroom - and, in the long term, every effort should be made to recruit visiting teachers who can teach bilingually.
- In order to maximise pupils' contact with Gaelic, Gaelic speaking staff, including ancillary staff such as janitors and dining and office staff, should speak Gaelic to Gaelic medium pupils as much as possible, in school and social settings. For this reason, advertisements for vacancies in schools with Gaelic medium classes should refer to the ability to speak Gaelic as 'an advantage'.

Whole school events

- In the case of assemblies, other formal gatherings and of social and recreational events, schools may choose to have separate Gaelic medium and English medium events, joint events or, ideally, a combination of both.
- Joint events should be bilingual, both in content and also with regard to the language used to run them. Gaelic should be used for specific purposes. For example, news relating more to Gaelic medium classes could be conveyed in Gaelic, with an English summary for non Gaelic speakers. The two languages should be used to broadly the same extent.

Ceanglaichean eadar sgoilearan

Tha Gàidhlig agus Beurla aig na sgoilearan anns na clasaichean Gàidhlig ach chan eil aig a' mhòr-chuid de na sgoilearan anns na clasaichean Beurla ach a' Bheurla fhèin. Airson tuigse nas fheàrr a thoirt dhaibh air a' chànan eile, bu chòir do na sgoilearan anns na clasaichean tro mheadhan na Beurla ionnsachadh mu dheidhinn na Gàidhlig san sgoil. Gheibh sgoiltean taic leis a seo tron phròiseact 'Introduction to Gaelic'.

Ionnsachadh agus Teagasg

- Bu chòir do thidsearan tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a bhith a' deasbaid cheistean coitcheann mu ionnsachadh agus teagasg le an co-obraichean ann am foghlam tron Bheurla anns an sgoil. Tha foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig eadar-dhealaichte ann an cuid a dhòighean, ge ta. Bu chòir an t-eadar-dhealachadh seo a bhith nochdte ann am planaichean agus poileasaidhean agus bu chòir do na ceistean seo a bhith air clàr-gnothaich choinneamhan de na tidsearan uile no bu chòir cothrom a bhith aig na tidsearan Gàidhlig bruidhinn orra mar bhuidheann.
- Bu chòir do luchd-stiùiridh nan sgoiltean a bhith mothachail air gu bheil foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus na Beurla eadar-dhealaichte ann an dòighean cudromach - mar eisimpleir a thaobh an òrdain sa bheil rudan air an dèanamh, na stuthan-teagasg a tha aca agus a thaobh a' chuideam a tha air a chur air cànan. Cumar a' ruith cùrsaichean do Cheannardan gach bliadhna air leasaichidhean foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Integration of pupils

- While Gaelic medium pupils speak both Gaelic and English, English medium pupils are for the most part monolingual (in the Gaelic/English context). In order to help integrate the two departments of the school, English medium pupils should learn about Gaelic and should learn a little of the language. Schools will be supported in this by the 'Introduction to Gaelic' project.

The curriculum

- Gaelic medium teachers should participate with their English medium counterparts in discussing learning and teaching issues which are common to English and Gaelic medium education. However there are respects in which Gaelic medium education is different. This should be reflected in plans and policies and these matters should either be on the agenda of whole staff meetings or Gaelic medium teachers should have time to discuss them as a group.
- School managements should make allowance for the fact that the Gaelic medium curriculum is different in significant ways from English medium education - for example, in timing, resourcing and in its emphasis on language. Annual seminars on aspects of the Gaelic medium curriculum will continue be provided.

Gàidhlig ann an rianachd na sgoile

- Bu chòir do shoidhnichean an taobh a-muigh agus a-staigh dhan sgoil a bhith dà-chànanach. Bu chòir don dà chànan a bhith a cheart cho follaiseach.
- Bu chòir do chinn-litreach sgoiltean a bhith dà-chànanach.
- Bu chòir do litrichean agus notaichean gu pàrantan a bhith san dà chànan, ma ghabhas e dèanamh.
- Bu chòir do notasan agus theisteanas coitcheann sgoile a bhith san dà chànan. Bu chòir do notasan anns na clasaichean Gàidhlig a bhith sa Ghàidhlig a-mhàin.
- Bu chòir do chlàir-oideachaidh sgoiltean agus aithisgean pàrantan a bhith anns an dà chànan. Thèid eadar-theangachadh a dhèanamh leis a' Chomhairle de chlàir-oideachaidh 2002/2003: bidh e air a shùileachadh air sgoiltean fhèin an leasachadh anns na bliadhnaichean as dèidh seo.
- Bu chòir do stuth ann an dà chuid Gàidhlig agus Beurla a bhith ann an Cuairtlithean, Duilleagan Eadar-lion agus irisean sgoiltean.
- Bu chòir do aithisgean, cùntasan agus planaichean sgoile iomradh a thoirt, ann an dòigh fhollaiseach, air gu bheil foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig san sgoil.

Gaelic in school business

- External and internal signage in and around the schools should be bilingual. The languages should have equal prominence.
- School letterheads should be bilingual.
- Standard letters and notes to parents should be bilingual, if at all possible.
- General school notices and merit certificates awarded to all pupils should be bilingual. Notices in Gaelic medium classrooms should be in Gaelic only.
- School prospectuses and pupil reports should be issued in bilingual versions. A Gaelic translation will be produced centrally of all 2002/3 school prospectuses: schools will be expected to update them annually thereafter.
- Newsletters, WebPages and magazines should contain material in both Gaelic and English.
- All publications, information reports and plans - internal and external - should refer prominently to Gaelic medium education and the issues specific to it.