

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE PROVISION OF EDUCATION IN STAFFIN, ISLE
OF SKYE

THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE
EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND)
ACT 2010

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CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CHANGE PROVISION OF EDUCATION IN STAFFIN, ISLE OF SKYE

This paper sets out a proposal by Highland Council to alter the provision of education in Staffin Primary School by making the school a Gaelic Medium School with an English Medium provision.

1 THE PRESENT POSITION

Background

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| 1 | <p>Over the last 10 years there has been, at national and Highland level, interest in establishing dedicated Gaelic schools. In 1999 all-Gaelic primary provision was developed at Bunsgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu, with significant success. The original school was formally closed in June 2005 and reopened as the Sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu in August 2005. A dedicated Gaelic school in Inverness, Bun sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis was opened 2007.</p> <p>The Ross, Skye and Lochaber Area of Highland Council is rich in Gaelic language and culture. This is reflected in the area having 20 Gaelic Medium primary schools. Portree High School delivers a number of subjects through the medium of Gaelic.</p> <p>Recently the Council has received representations from The Parent Council of Staffin Primary School requesting that consideration is given to the establishment of a dedicated Gaelic school with an English medium class, at Staffin Primary School.</p> |
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1.1	<p>Staffin Primary School has had a significantly declining English Medium roll in recent years. The current English Medium roll is 5 and the projected number of English Medium pupils in the school for August 2010 is 5. There is no English Medium pre-school provision in the school. The current Gaelic Medium roll is 29 and the projected number of Gaelic Medium pupils in the school for August 2010 is 25. There is a Gaelic Medium Nursery with a current roll of 5 and a projected roll of 1 for August 2010.</p>								
<p>TABLE 1</p>									
Staffin		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
2007/8	EM								10
	GM	5	3	2	10	7	4	3	34
2008/9	EM								12
	GM	1	5	3	2	10	7	4	32
2009/10	EM								5
	GM	3	1	5	3	2	10	7	31
2010/11	EM								5
	GM	2	3	1	4	3	2	10	25
1.2	<p>Staffing at Staffin Primary School comprises a non class committed Associated Schools Head Teacher for Staffin and Kilmuir Primary Schools. There are two Gaelic Medium class teachers and one English Medium class teacher. Additionally, there is a Clerical Assistant, Classroom Assistant, Learning Support Auxiliary, Cleaner and Kitchen Assistant, all of whom are part time employees.</p>								
1.3	<p>Accommodation currently comprises 4 classrooms, an office area, and a staff room. There is a school kitchen and meals are cooked and served on the premises. The gymnasium doubles as a dining area. The Building Condition score is B and the Building Suitability score is B. There is currently 1 classroom which is not in use.</p>								
1.4	<p>Entrance to the school is from the road to Maligar, off the A855, which leads to a car parking area with access to the school building through gates at the front.</p>								
1.5	<p>The nearest school to Staffin Primary is Kilmuir Primary which offers both English Medium and Gaelic Medium Education. Current rolls are English Medium 4 and Gaelic Medium 16. Projected rolls for August 2010 in Kilmuir Primary are 18 in Gaelic Medium and 5 in English Medium. Additionally there is a Gaelic Medium Nursery in Kilmuir Primary school with a roll of 10. The school has 2 classrooms, a pre-school nursery, a classroom/dining room, kitchen, office accommodation, staffroom, and entrance foyer. The dining room was previously used for PE lessons but accommodation issues now require that pupils be transported to Kilmuir Village Hall. A purpose built demountable classroom to accommodate the Nursery is scheduled to be in place for the start of session 2010/11.</p>								

2	LIKELY EFFECT OF PROPOSAL
2.1	The proposals would ensure that the interest in establishing dedicated Gaelic Schools throughout Highland continues to be realised.
2.2	There would be no impact on the English Medium provision currently provided in Staffin Primary School.
2.3	No transport issues would arise
2.4	There would be no changes to the staffing complement in the school.
3	CAPITAL AND REVENUE EXPENDITURE
3.1	Alteration to the status of the school would have no impact on expenditure.
4	SUMMARY
	The declining English Medium roll at Staffin Primary School and the representations of both the Gaelic and the English Medium parents indicate that there is a desire for Staffin Primary School to become a dedicated Gaelic Medium School.