

**Anne Macrae, Torridon & Kinlochewe Community Council**

**Proposed Gaelic Medium Catchment Area for Gairloch Primary School**

I write in response to the proposal to establish a Gaelic Medium catchment area for Gairloch Primary School, as head teacher of Torridon Primary from 1992 ( currently mothballed ) and as Secretary to Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council.

As stated at the meeting in Gairloch on 22<sup>nd</sup> January , given the distance to travel to Gairloch ,it seems appropriate that families living on our side maintain the choice of attending either Gairloch or Lochcarron GM which is considerably closer, especially for children living in Shildaig or round the Applecross Coast.

Pupils already attend a variety of after school activities held in Lochcarron, including badminton, shinty, dancing and music tuition, also mixing with Applecross pupils and there is a strong historical link to Plockton as in the past pupils boarded there at the hostel.

For young children living in outlying areas such as Diabaig or Arrina it would be a very early start to meet the morning bus which leaves after 7am and they would not return home till well after 5 pm.

It may be easier for families living in Kinlochewe to travel to Gairloch on the bus though this could also impact on the already fragile number of pupils in our small schools.

Anyone in Achnasheen would also be closer to Lochcarron.

There is a significant difference between infants travelling in a private car and on a larger bus for longer journeys without an escort where issues such as toilets or travel sickness could arise so there would need to be someone identified to be able to help if needed.

Senior pupils can find the daily journey tiring so this could also have a potential impact on young ones.

Anne C. Macrae