

From: [Ian Jackson](#)
To: [Education Consultations](#)
Subject: FW: GM catchment for Gairloch PS.
Date: 03 February 2020 09:23:41

From: ACC Aultbea <aaltbeacommunitycouncil@gmail.com>
Sent: 02 February 2020 19:59
To: Ian Jackson <ian.jackson@highland.gov.uk>
Subject: GM catchment for Gairloch PS.

Dear Ian,

I write on behalf of Aultbea Community Council to voice our concerns of the detrimental effect that the current situation regarding Gaelic medium provision has for our local school, children, and wider community.

In the first instance that all the resources for GM are spent in Gairloch results in zero provision for Gaelic input for Bualnaluib Primary. Maintaining the status quo not only deprives the pupils of equity of educational provision, but additionally leaves the school short of pupils who are bused to Gairloch for Gaelic medium. This can in certain circumstances have severe consequences by reducing the hours of teaching provision locally at huge detriment to the wellbeing and education of staff and pupils. It only requires a minimal dip in numbers to lose half a teacher, thus one family choosing Gaelic education for their children can have an impact on the whole of Bualnaluib primary with a knock on effect for the community.

Very little consultation took place when the Gaelic medium started in Gairloch, it would have been much fairer for all to have mobile GM teachers visiting each of the primary schools regularly, leading to many more children growing up with Gaelic, creating a sense of shared culture rather than the division and inequity currently seen, with disparity only worsening as austerity measures seem to cut mainstream education harder.

It is with some hope that we learn resources are being allocated to training teachers and delivering L2 Gaelic, and I also appreciate this is inline with National policy but would like our views considered as part of the wider debate.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Mackenzie
(Chair)