

Advice on Gaelic Education

Gaelic Medium Education: career-long professional learning (CLPL)

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Key messages:

- Teachers need to have access to high-quality career-long professional learning (CLPL) to support them with Gaelic Medium Education.

6.1 High-quality teachers are the most valuable asset that Scotland has for securing a sustainable future for the Gaelic language. Teachers need to be continually valued and supported in this crucial role and responsibility. In turn, teachers need to take advantage of the support that is made available for them. Teaching Scotland's Future¹ recognises that teachers need to have access to high-quality **career-long professional learning (CLPL)**. This includes specialist support in such areas as Gaelic Medium Education. Teachers need to be supported in meeting the needs of a range of learners by working with those who can assist with delivering a full curriculum through the medium of Gaelic. Recognition also needs to be given to the on-going commitment required for teachers of Gaelic Medium Education to be updating continuously their knowledge of specialist vocabulary, language and to be planning a full curriculum.

6.2 Effective career-long professional learning meets the requirements of The General Teaching Scotland Professional Standards and retains a focus from initial teacher education on equipping teachers with the skills, knowledge and understanding for delivering high-quality Gaelic Medium Education in a 3-18 curriculum. A **suggested focus for career-long professional learning** includes:

- immersion and pedagogy for language acquisition;
- teaching of grammar and specialist vocabulary;
- developing literacy through Gaelic across the curriculum;
- assisting those who need support in their learning;
- developing a full curriculum for Gaelic Medium Education;
- maximising and contributing to information communication technology for delivering Gaelic Medium Education;
- learning, teaching and assessment approaches for developing language with different ages and stages 3-18, including in multi-level classes and
- equipping teachers to deliver a range of subjects and contexts that develop progressive learning of Gaelic. This includes all teachers, both language and subject, having an input on the components identified earlier in this paragraph and in subjects such as health and wellbeing, personal and social education,
- entitlement to support, religious and moral education, and delivering awards through the medium of Gaelic such as the John Muir Awards.

6.3 The programme *Streap*² by the University of Aberdeen is developed in partnership with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and is fully funded by Scottish Government. Stakeholders identify it as being successful in enabling teachers to acquire the terminology and confidence to teach

¹ [Teaching Scotland's Future](#) Graham Donaldson, December 2010

² [Streap](#) Aberdeen University

specific subjects through the medium of Gaelic. Its continued development will encourage participation from teachers, language and support assistants, support teachers and senior managers.

6.4 Through professional review and development, practitioners identify their specific professional learning needs which can be supported through such events as the Scottish Learning Festival³, *An t-Alltan*⁴, Senior Leaders' Conference⁵, Conference for Newly-Qualified Teachers (NQTs) and Glow⁶. This should include sharing emerging best practice in Gaelic Education, including the practice described in this Advice, in order to develop expertise, share and access resources and impact on raising young people's attainment. The Education Scotland Audit of CLPL, 2015 is enabling the profession to identify the professional learning needed to continue to inspire better learning, teaching and leadership of Gaelic provision.

6.5 In developing and evaluating **the curriculum for Gaelic Medium Education**, reference should be made to all relevant publications, in particular, the series on *Building the Curriculum* and the *Inspection Advice Notes* which set expectations for implementing national guidance on the curriculum.

³ [Scottish Learning Festival](#) organised every September by Education Scotland and associated outreach event

⁴ [An t-Alltan](#) is organised by [Stòrlann](#) on an annual basis to provide career-long professional learning for those delivering in 0-18 Gaelic Education

⁵ Annual conference organised by [Bòrd na Gàidhlig](#) for senior leaders in schools and education authorities who have provision for Gaelic Education.

⁶ [Glow](#) Scotland's "national schools" intranet

