

Advice on Gaelic Education

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

Updated March 2022

6. Gaelic Medium Education: career-long professional learning

Key messages:

- Teachers need 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 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 ongoing 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. It is fully funded by Scottish Government. Stakeholders identify it as being successful in enabling teachers to acquire the terminology and confidence to teach specific subjects through the medium of Gaelic. Its continued development will encourage participation from teachers, language and support assistants, support teachers and senior managers.

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

² [Streap: Postgraduate Certificate in Gaelic Medium Education – Sabhal Mòr Ostaig](#)

6.4 Through professional review and development, practitioners identify their specific professional learning needs. These can be supported through national and local events. 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 use of inspection findings are 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, The Refreshed Narrative*³ and the *Chief Inspector's Report*, which set expectations for implementing national guidance on the curriculum.

³ [Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence \(scotlandscurriculum.scot\)](https://www.scotlandscurriculum.scot)

Education Scotland

Denholm House
Almondvale Business Park
Almondvale Way
Livingston EH54 6GA

T +44 (0)131 244 4330

E enquiries@education.scotland.gsi.gov.uk

www.education.gov.scot