

Advice on Gaelic Education

Learning about Gaelic language and culture

Updated March 2022

17. Learning about Gaelic language and culture

Key messages:

- Learning about the Gaelic language and culture is a central feature of learning about Scotland and helps children and young people connect Gaelic to their knowledge and understanding of Scotland.

17.1 An important feature of Curriculum for Excellence is its emphasis on learning about Scotland. *Building the Curriculum 3* states that children and young people are entitled to a broad general education. 'Throughout this broad curriculum it is expected that there will be an emphasis on Scottish contexts, Scottish cultures and Scotland's history and place in the world.'¹ Learning about the language and culture of Scotland is an important feature of children's and young people's learning about their country and its identity. Learning about the Gaelic language and culture is a central feature of learning about Scotland and helps children and young people connect Gaelic to their knowledge and understanding of Scotland. This helps with creating informed attitudes to ensure equality and respect to Gaelic as an official language of Scotland, and frequently motivates children to learn Gaelic.

17.2 Learning about Gaelic language and culture may be achieved through learning in subjects, curricular areas, themed projects, planned interdisciplinary approaches, or through an elective or enrichment activity, which runs for all or part of the session. The resource *Studying Scotland* opens access to learning about Scotland's language, culture, heritage, music, history, geography and literature. Partners, the community and Gaelic organisations also have a role in helping children to learn about Gaelic language and culture. Awards and qualifications such as Scottish Studies Awards, The John Muir Award, National Certificate in Celtic Studies and National Progression Awards can be used to recognise young people's achievements. Reference should also be made to the publication, *Curriculum for Excellence Briefing, Learning about Scotland*²

¹ [Building the Curriculum 3](#) A framework for learning and teaching (2008)

² [CfE Briefing 9 Learning About Scotland](#)

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