

Advice on Gaelic Education

Gaelic Medium Education: engagement with parents

Updated March 2022

5. Gaelic Medium Education: engagement with parents

Key messages:

- Early engagement with parents to inform them of the benefits of Gaelic Medium Education, and its link to the benefits of bilingualism, is essential in securing the future of the language.
- Children's fluency in Gaelic is enhanced by using the language out with school. Parents need to have clear information on how to support their children's education.

5.1 Early engagement with parents to inform them of the benefits of Gaelic Medium Education, and its link to the benefits of bilingualism, is essential in securing the future of the language. The children who enter Gaelic Medium Education at this early stage of learning and development are the ones who will learn through the medium of Gaelic in P1 and beyond. They are also the ones who will determine the numbers in Gaelic Medium Education through the broad general education and into the senior phase. This presents an important need for very focused and effective promotional activity with parents. Bòrd na Gàidhlig promotes Gaelic Medium Education at key points, including where there is recognised capacity to increase numbers. *Comann nam Pàrant*¹ also do commendable work. They organise events and visits to parents to address queries relating to Gaelic Education. They assist parents in setting up Gaelic Medium provision. In the most effective practice, Gaelic organisations will work with local authorities to promote the benefits of Gaelic Medium Education to parents from an early stage. They will support parents to enrol their children in early learning and childcare centres. Parents expect Gaelic Medium provision that is of the highest quality, with tangible and transparent benefits for their children.

5.2 Gaelic Medium Education is open to all. It is important that parents who are not fluent in Gaelic are aware that they are instrumental in supporting their children's education through the medium of Gaelic. Children's fluency in Gaelic is enhanced by using the language out with school. If parents wish, they need to have clear information on the various pathways to learning Gaelic, so they too can learn Gaelic with their children.

¹ [Comann nam Pàrant](#) is the national organisation that advises and supports parents/carers of those in Gaelic Medium Education (GME).

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