Gaelic Education – Argyll and Bute Council

Foreword

‘Language is at the core of thinking. We reflect, communicate, and develop our ideas through language. Literacy offers an essential passport to learning, helping young people to achieve to the full and be ready for active involvement in society and work. Literature opens up new horizons, and a love of reading can be an important starting point for lifelong learning. As we communicate increasingly through digital technologies; we need to be able to interpret and convey information in new ways and to apply discernment.’

Building the Curriculum 1, Curriculum for Excellence

Language development is even more important where more than one language exists in a community. Although Gaelic has lost much ground in Argyll and Bute over the last century, this part of Scotland is of pre-eminent strategic and symbolic importance to the past, present and future development of Gaelic.

Argyll and Bute is therefore a natural place in which to pursue the rebuilding of the Gaelic language. Argyll and Bute Council has consistently shown a desire to promote Gaelic language and culture. Indeed Gaelic development is one of the key objectives of the Council and Community Services : Education.

Gaelic has been identified as a national priority for the Scottish Government. Alex Salmond, First Minister for Scotland and Leader of the Scottish National Party has displayed the commitment of the Government by insisting that his Government and the Scottish Parliament believes firmly in equal respect between the Gaelic language and the English language. The Government’s National Plan for Gaelic is ambitious and aims to develop the language across Scotland. It is committed to promoting and expanding Gaelic education provision at every level and is backed up by substantial investment including £1 million per year directed towards Gaelic Education.

‘Above all, education will be central to our effort to secure the future of Gaelic. The academic evidence shows that bilingual children enjoy many intellectual advantages, regardless of which pair of languages they have. Studies from across the world show that bilingual children tend to have better literacy skills, better mathematical skills and better coordination. Therefore we want to focus on giving youngsters the opportunity to learn Gaelic at the earliest possible age. Above all, we will promote and expand the provision of Gaelic education at every level. Education is at the heart of this government's overall mission. And it is the foundation of our policy for Gaelic. Or, if you prefer: An t-ionnachadh òg, an t-ionnachadh bòidheach, Teach 'em young. Teach 'em good.’

Alex Salmond, First Minister, Scottish Government, Sabhal Mor Oostaig Lecture 2007
In light of this Argyll and Bute Council was requested by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to produce its first Gaelic Language Plan. The core commitments of this initial Plan are in Identity, Communications, Publications, Staffing, Education, and Community Regeneration. This will be undertaken through the 4 key principles of Language Acquisition, Language Usage, Language Status, and Language Corpus.

Education will be the major contributor to creating Gaelic communities and speakers of the future. The quality and quantity of provision offered to young people will determine whether they go on to achieve valuable qualifications, work in the wide and varied employment opportunities in Gaelic, use it in their daily lives and pass it on to their own children. Exposing young people to Gaelic as early as possible will provide them with the tools, skills, and ability to learn languages throughout their lives. It will also make them proud of their culture and history and provide them with an understanding of the benefits of bilingualism, second language learning and importance of revitalising minority languages and cultures and the essential role they have in our communities.

Gaelic should be a priority for all educational establishments and every effort should be made to make Gaelic visible and attractive in schools, to engage pupils and parents in the values and benefits, to introduce and embed Gaelic Learners' Education (GLE) in all Argyll and Bute Schools and to continue developing, improving and expanding Gaelic Medium Education (GME) provision.

I endorse and commend the advice and guidance in *Gaelic Education* to all education staff as they work to raise standards of educational attainment and improve the achievement of all pupils.

Director of Community Services
Argyll and Bute Council

May 2009
Gaelic Education - History, Developments and Future Growth

Argyll and Bute Council inherited responsibility for the development of Gaelic education from Strathclyde Regional Council. The former regional council, with assistance from the Scottish Office Education Department (SOED), through the Scheme of Specific Grants for Gaelic Education, established the first Primary Gaelic Medium Unit in Scotland, in 1985, in Glasgow. Prior to that there had, for many years, been a strong emphasis on Gaelic Education in secondary schools.

Since then, Gaelic language and culture has experienced a remarkable renaissance. The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was passed and the creation of the Governmental development body Bòrd na Gàidhlig will secure the language into the future. The number of pupils who are in Gaelic Medium Education has risen from 24 in 1985 to 2206 in the school year 2008-09. In Secondary education there were 981 pupils accessing Gàidhlig (fluent speakers) and 2813 accessing Gaelic (learners) provision in 2008-09.

At its inception, Argyll and Bute Council identified Gaelic as an authority priority. It developed primary Gaelic Medium provision on Islay and Tiree and has established primary provision in Salen on Mull, in Oban Primary Campus, Rockfield, in Strath of Appin and in Sandbank in Cowal. Gaelic Learners’ Education (GLE) is now offered in 34 Argyll and Bute primary establishments through the national initiative Gaelic Learners in the Primary School (GLPS) and in 5 Secondary Schools as a second language curriculum area.

In the lifetime of its first Gaelic Language Plan, 2008-09 – 2011-12, Argyll and Bute Council has set out extensive commitments to the revitalisation of Gaelic in the region. It will:

- Investigate the efficacy of establishing dedicated Gaelic schools in areas where significant numbers make this desirable, viable and sustainable
- Continue to develop existing Gaelic medium pre-school and childcare provision and respond positively to new requests
- Continue to expand GLPS provision across the authority and encourage all Primary establishments to offer GLPS
- Continue to improve existing Gaelic Learners Education provision and, over time, offer GLE in all secondary schools as resources allow
- Sustain and secure continuous improvement, development and expansion in Gaelic Medium Education (GME)
- Grow opportunities to undertake GME in other curricular areas in secondary education
- Provide good quality Continuing Professional Development opportunities for Gaelic staff
- Promote every level of Gaelic Education in all communities
- Increase Partnership working with other Gaelic agencies and local authorities involved in the delivery of Gaelic Education
Community Services: Education has made significant developments towards the achievement of these commitments such as the appointment of a dedicated Education Support Officer, Gaelic and GLPS Co-ordinator.

Gaelic Education is funded through the Scottish Government’s Scheme of Specific Grants for Gaelic Education which is designed to assist new developments in Gaelic education provision. The Scottish Government prioritises that Specific Grant is allocated to staffing, resources and equipment to ensure quality of provision.
**Mission Statement**

The intention of the policy document *Gaelic Education* is to provide Guidance to Educational establishments in Argyll and Bute who provide, or intend to provide, Gaelic Education. Gaelic Education can take the form of:

- **Gaelic Medium Education (GME)** – Gaelic Medium Pre-school provision, Gaelic Medium Primary provision, Gaelic Medium Secondary provision and Gaidhlig (Fluent Speakers) secondary
- **Gaelic Learners Education (GLE)** – Gaelic Pre-school provision, Gaelic Learners in the Primary School (GLPS), Gaelic (Learners) secondary

The document will set out the expectations of Community Services: Education to the delivery of Gaelic Education. It will complement the Curriculum for Excellence documents *Gaelic (learners), principles and practice, outcomes and expectations* and *Literacy and Gàidhlig, principles and practice, outcomes and expectations*. It will support the principles of Assessment is for Learning and will expect that Information Communications Technology will be an important contributor to the success of Gaelic Education. It is also expected that Co-operative Learning techniques, Active Learning strategies and vocational education opportunities will form the basis of effective learning and teaching.

*Gaelic Education* is an inclusive 3-18 policy and will allow for continuity across educational sectors, cross-sectoral working and smooth transitional processes. It will have the development of literacy as its permeating theme.

Community Services: Education will continue to develop its policy and practice framework which will:

- place children’s educational needs at the centre of education policy and decision making
- be responsive to the needs of parents accessing Gaelic education for their children
- make appropriate provision for Gaelic Medium children with special educational needs.

The success and benefit of Gaelic Education is highlighted in the words of some Argyll and Bute pupils:

S4 Gàidhlig pupil - "Tha mise a' smaointinn gu bheil foghlam tro mheadhan na Gaidhlig glè mhath agus cuideachd feumail. Tha mi cuideachd a' smaointinn gu bheil e a' fosgladh pàirt eile den inntinn agad agus gu bheil buaidh mhòir air a bhith aig a' chànan Gàidhlig air mo bheatha."

S4 Gàidhlig pupil – “I think that Gaelic Medium Education is very good and also very useful. I think it opens another part of your mind and the Gaelic language has had a major effect on my life.”
S5 Gàidhlig pupil - "’S e cothrom fior mhath a th’ ann a bhith a’ faighinn foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Tha Gàidhlig fhathast a’ cordadh rium gu mòr agus ’s e cuspair glè fheumail a th’ ann. Le bhith bruidhinn Gàidhlig, tha tòrr chothroman sgoinneil air a bhith agam agus gun a’ Ghàidhlig, cha bhiodh an cuid mòr de na cothroman sin agam."

S5 Gàidhlig pupil – “Accessing Gaelic Medium Education is a fantastic opportunity. I still enjoy it very much and I feel it is a very useful subject. By having the ability to speak Gaelic I have had fantastic opportunities available to me but without Gaelic I would not have had many of these opportunities.”

S5 Gàidhlig pupil - "Tha mise a’ smaointinn gur e rud uabhasach math a th’ ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. ’S e rud uabhasach feumail a th’ innte nuair a tha thu nas aosta agus ’s e cothrom airson dorsan úr fosgladh, a th’ innte cuideachd. Nuair a tha Gàidhlig agad, bidh thu a’ faireachdaint gu math pròiseil mu deidhinn agus uabhasach sonraichte gu urrainn dhu bhruideinn ann an cànan eile agus gu bheil an cànan sonraichte gu Alba agus cho sean ’s a tha i. Tha mise a’ faireachdaint gu math taingeil gu bheil Gaidhlig agam mar dana chànan agus gu bheil mi nam phàirt de shluagh shönraichte a bhios a’ bruidhinn Gàidhlig."

S5 Gàidhlig pupil – “I think that Gaelic Medium Education is a fantastic opportunity. It will be very to people when they are older and it will open many doors of opportunity to people. When you can speak Gaelic, you feel very proud about it and also very special that you have the ability to speak another language and that this language is special to Scotland and also very old. I feel very thankful that I have the ability to speak Gaelic as a second language and that I will be part of a special group of people who will be speaking Gaelic.

The Guidance is clear from Scottish Ministers that Gaelic Education is a priority and that they would like authorities and bodies to reflect this priority in the exercise of their functions and in the delivery of their services. The delivery of Gaelic education in schools is the responsibility of local authorities and bodies such as the Scottish Qualifications Authority and Learning and Teaching Scotland have a vital role to play in this.

The National Gaelic Education Strategy

Argyll and Bute Council, Community Services: Education is committed to the continued development, expansion and improvement of Gaelic education in all forms and in all sectors and the guidance in this document Gaelic Education will assist with the achievement of this.
3-18 Gaelic Medium Education (GME)

Language and literacy are of personal, social and economic importance. Our ability to use language lies at the centre of the development and expression of our emotions, our thinking, our learning and our sense of personal identity. Language is itself a key aspect of our culture. Through language, children and young people can gain access to the literary heritage of humanity and develop their appreciation of the richness and breadth of Scotland’s literary heritage. Children and young people encounter, enjoy and learn from the diversity of language used in their homes, their communities, by the media and by their peers.

Literacy and Gàidhlig, Principles and Practice

Gaelic Medium Education (GME) has been one of the success stories and one of the most rapidly developing sectors of Scottish education in recent years. Since the first Gaelic Medium Unit opened in 1985 the number of pupils in Gaelic Medium Education has risen from 24 to 2206 in the school year 2008-09. In Argyll and Bute over 60 pupils accessed Gaelic Medium pre-school provision and over 140 pupils accessing Gaelic Medium Primary Education. In Secondary education there were 981 pupils accessing Gàidhlig classes in Scotland’s schools with over 70 of those in Argyll and Bute.

Gaelic Medium Education is currently offered in 6 Argyll and Bute primary and their associated pre-school establishments: Bowmore Primary on Islay, Rockfield Primary at Oban Primary Campus, Sandbank Primary in Dunoon, Salen Primary on Mull, Strath of Appin Primary and Tiree Primary Department. It is accessible to all, inclusive and no background in the language is required by children or families. GME is a dynamic, 21st century education system that is forward looking and progressive. As a commitment of the Gaelic Language Plan it is the intention of Argyll and Bute Council to expand GME provision by:

- developing existing GME pre-school provision for 3 and 4 year olds through promotion and publicity
- improve existing GME pre-school provision by establishing networks, sharing good practice and providing a comprehensive CPD programme for Childcare and Education workers
- aiming to increase the number of localities served by Gaelic Medium pre-school education, where sufficient demand exists and resources allow
- responding to the Government’s survey on Gaelic Medium Pre-school provision
- sustaining and securing continuous improvement in GM provision in schools by securing funding, trained staff and appropriate resources and facilities
- providing resources and accommodation to enable provision of GME which takes appropriate account of the needs of immersion and post immersion stages
• targeting to increase the number of pupils in GME by 70% by August 2011, (25 in 2007/08)
• enhancing links with Comunn nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) and the local branches of Comunn nam Pàrant
• advertising and promoting every level of GME.

The importance of GME is supported and highlighted in the National Plan for Gaelic which states:

GME is recognised as the best means of assisting young people to achieve fluency in the language and in recent years has had an impact on addressing the problem of the decline in the language.

Children come to GME from a range of family backgrounds. These vary from a family in a strong Gaelic community to an environment where no Gaelic is spoken. Learners in a GM setting will hear and, in time, speak, read and write Gaelic. It may take time for children to become confident in Gaelic but opportunities will be given to them to interact with other Gaelic speakers in a range of situations which will enhance their confidence and build their feeling of success. The language of communication in a GM setting will be Gaelic and all areas of the curriculum will be taught through the medium of Gaelic. The GM learning environment will be visually stimulating with the development of language at its core. There will be a focus on Gaelic grammatical structures and phonology and accuracy in the use of the language will be reinforced at all times.

At the Early levels children in a GME setting should have the opportunity to experience active learning activities. Gaelic will be the predominant medium of communication providing good models for the children and can be considered a stage of the Gaelic Medium immersion phase. The range of teaching methodologies employed should enable the children to learn Gaelic in situations that are real, familiar and natural to them. Real-life and imaginary contexts will enhance challenge, choice and enjoyment and give ownership of learning to the children. The Spoken language will be of particular importance at this level and play-based learning will be balanced with the learning of skills and techniques for reading, including Phonics. Learners will have the chance to explore patterns, sounds of language and events and characters through stories and other texts that they may watch, read or listen to. Learners will learn new words and phrases to be used in conversations that will allow them to talk to, play and work with others.

Community Services: Education will take the lead role in the continued development of GM early years provision and will react to demands for new provision where sufficient demand exit and resources allow. Sufficient demand is quantified as a figure of seven or more children aged three or four with a registered interest in GM early years provision. Interest can be registered with School Support, Community Services: Education, Argyll House, Dunoon. Consideration may be given to establishing provision with fewer than seven but no less than four, if the authority can access additional funding to help sustain these smaller numbers. The quality of GM early years
provision will be under the supervision of the Early Years’ Team assisted by the Education Support Officer – Gaelic.

Non-Gaelic speaking parents of GM early years children will be assisted to acquire proficiency in the language by arranging appropriate parental classes through Community Learning and Development or providing funding for parents wishing to access Lifelong Learning courses, Distance Learning courses and Ulpan classes.

At GME Primary levels, first to third, it is recommended that learning and teaching is wholly through Gaelic during the immersion phase from P1-3 with the gradual introduction of English taking place through the medium of Gaelic after this. However, it is the responsibility of each Primary establishment to consider the needs of the children and the community to ensure the development of bilingual children in a Gaelic Medium setting. Decisions on the immersion phase will relate to the Early Years’ provision in a locality and will be evidence and research based. Each establishment will communicate to parents the provision offered and will include any developments and amendments to practice. This will ensure continuity of expectations from GME.

During the immersion phase it is important that the personal and social needs of the pupils are sensitively and supportively met to ensure that children do not become frustrated or distressed with difficulties in communication.

Thereafter, Gaelic will continue to be the predominant teaching medium and equal importance will be given to developing children’s language skills, knowledge and understanding across the curriculum. Where circumstances allow, GME should extend as far as possible across and beyond the curriculum. A clear structure will be in place for learning and further development in Gaelic language skills and an emphasis will be placed on enriching Gaelic that can be used in a wide range of social and educational contexts. The permeating theme in the GM setting will be the development of literacy and language and this will be nurtured in all aspects of learning.

Learners in a GME setting will:

- select, read, listen to or watch texts of their own choice for their own enjoyment
- use the Gaelic they have learnt to engage in a coherent manner whilst taking part in conversations
- develop an informed view and distinguish fact from opinion
- develop confidence within and beyond the place of learning
- respond appropriately in a range of situations adopting opinions and suitable register.

Comprehensive information on attainment, achievement and the progress made by children who have accessed GME in a primary establishment will be transferred to the associated secondary establishment. Children who have
achieved Level A Gàidhlig Reading and Writing or further will not be permitted to transfer to or access Gaelic (Learners) in the secondary school.

Community Services: Education will continue to take the lead role in GME and will endeavour to establish new facilities for the delivery of GME, where sufficient demand exists. Sufficient demand is quantified as a minimum of four primary one pupils with a registered interest in Gaelic medium primary education. There must also be clear evidence of the continued demand from parents for Gaelic medium education in the future to guarantee the sustainability of such provision.

The staffing entitlement for Gaelic medium education (GME) will be in accordance with the local authority staffing formulae. Gaelic Medium provision is treated as a separate entity when calculating the staffing entitlement of an establishment. Staffing entitlement for GME will allow for the appropriate immersion phase to operate from P1-3 whilst allowing for the development of bilingualism across the curriculum in P4-7. This level of staffing is subject to the availability of specific grant funds and suitably qualified teaching staff.

School management, in consultation with staff and the authority, will decide how best to deploy Gaelic Medium staff. It is important that Gaelic Medium pupils have access to whole school activities and contribute to the whole school ethos.

The service, in accordance with Argyll and Bute policy, will make appropriate transportation arrangements for any pupil requesting access to Gaelic Medium Education provision, where specific grant funding and suitable available resources allow. Where transport is provided, it may be necessary for pupils to walk a certain distance to a designated vehicle pick-up point. No additional provision will be made for home journeys for immersion pupils who may have a shorter day until October in their first school session.

Gàidhlig is currently offered in 5 Secondary schools in Argyll and Bute: Dunoon Grammar, Islay High, Oban High, Tiree High and Tobermory High. Young people can access the full range of certificate courses and qualifications in Gàidhlig from Standard Grade to Advanced Higher and it is on an equal par with any other language that can be studied. There are also many and varied opportunities to continue the study of Gàidhlig in Further and Higher Education. The Gaelic Language Plan sets out to:

- ensure that all pupils transferring from GME primary to secondary school continue to engage with opportunities in Gàidhlig as a subject
- grow opportunities to undertake GME in other subject areas in order that language skills will continue to develop in a range of contexts in secondary schools
- hold language awareness days in secondary schools to ensure that GME and Gaelic job opportunities are highlighted.
Gaelic Medium Education in the secondary school should heighten the awareness among young people of what is special, vibrant and valuable about Gaelic language and culture. It will progressively build on their previous language learning and ensure continuity. It should provide learners with the confidence to use the Gaelic they have learnt by offering sufficient opportunities to practice their acquired language through a range of texts and conversations with other fluent Gaelic speakers. Young people from a GME background will develop an understanding how they can use and enjoy Gaelic throughout their lives in work and leisure. Learners will be made aware of the academic and economic benefits of bilingualism, and of the rapidly expanding job opportunities for fluent Gaelic speakers.

The programme of study undertaken in a Gàidhlig secondary class will be at the discretion and judgement of the teacher. It will rely heavily on the vocabulary, language structures, texts and guidelines of nationally produced materials and the content will be appropriate to the attainment, achievement and enjoyment of all learners. It will comprehensively cover the aspects of language of Talking, Listening, Reading and Writing.

Opportunities will be provided to learners from a GME background to experience a range of curricular areas through the medium of Gaelic in secondary schools. This can be achieved through the use of part-time, full-time and peripatetic staff and through distance learning based on ICT. It is essential to develop this area to ensure continuity and progression of learning.

It is expected that GME practitioners across the 3-18 range, where appropriate, make the learning relevant to the lives of the learners. This can be achieved through the effective use of ICT, active learning, the principles of Assessment is for Learning, the participation in enterprise and citizenship activities, the best use of the local environment and places of special interest and the expertise available within the community. GME can also contribute greatly to the implementation of Interdisciplinary learning as it is developed in schools. The promotion of Gaelic and languages will be actively undertaken through language days, advertising, events for children and parents and the recognition of achievement locally and nationally. All establishments offering GME will recognise the achievement of all pupils who have accessed the provision.

Gaelic Medium Education will adhere to the principles and practice, and experiences and outcomes set out in curriculum for excellence, 5-14 National Assessment guidelines and the SQA guidelines on National Certificate courses.
3-18 Gaelic Learners’ Education (GLE)

‘When they begin to learn another language, children and young people need to make connections with the skills and knowledge they have already developed in their own language. To help this, teachers can make use of the diversity of languages which children and young people may bring to school.’

Building the Curriculum 1

Gaelic Learners’ Education (GLE) in all sectors is a very important aspect of Gaelic educational developments. In the school year 2008-09 over 6000 young people accessed Gaelic Learners in the Primary Schools (GLPS) with just over 1000 of those in Argyll and Bute schools. In Scotland’s Secondary schools there were over 2800 young people in Gaelic (Learners) classes, with over 340 of those in Argyll and Bute schools.

GLPS is currently offered in 34 Argyll and Bute Primary establishments. As a commitment of the Gaelic Language Plan it is the intention of Argyll and Bute Council to expand GLPS provision by:

- ensuring that all pupils in primary establishments associated with a secondary in which Gaelic is offered are able to access GLPS in P6/7
- encouraging all primary establishments to offer GLPS and raise all pupils’ awareness of important aspects of Gaelic culture
- ensuring that GLPS teachers continue to further their Gaelic language skills through CPD opportunities
- continuing to offer GLPS training wherever demand exists in the council area.

These commitments are supported in the National Plan for Gaelic which states:

*There is now a need to develop GLE provision further and to work towards the introduction of GLPS provision in all Scottish Primary establishments.*

Gaelic (Learners) is currently offered in 5 Secondary schools in Argyll and Bute: Dunoon Grammar, Islay High, Oban High, Tiree High and Tobermory High. Young people can access the full range of certificate courses and qualifications in Gaelic (Learners) from Standard Grade to Advanced Higher and it is on an equal par with any other language that can be studied. There are also many and varied opportunities to continue the study of Gaelic in Further and Higher Education. The Gaelic Language Plan sets out to:

- continuously improve GLE provision in secondary schools which have traditionally offered GLE and actively promote uptake in secondary schools which have, or are developing new GLE provision
- over time, offer GLE opportunities in all secondary schools as resources and expertise allow.
Schools are encouraged to offer the opportunity to learn Gaelic as a second language as early as possible. This is highly important as thinking and learning stem from the use of language.

At the early levels, children can take part in predominantly oral activities where they can explore patterns in stories, poems, rhymes and songs. The focus should be on visual and auditory material which is repetitive and meaningful. Children at these stages should engage in conversation, develop reading and listening skills and knowledge about language. Short, practical and enjoyable activities are recommended such as playing games, singing songs and everyday classroom interactions that are language rich. The emphasis should be placed on the child’s enjoyment whilst experimenting with Gaelic as a new language.

There is the opportunity to develop an awareness of Gaelic heritage and culture through the exploration of customs and traditions. Practitioners are encouraged to use placenames, folklore, songs, the arts, festivals, food and traditions to enhance this experience. As children progress through the levels their appreciation of the part that Gaelic has played in establishing a Scottish identity will be developed.

The GLPS programme of language learning provides continuity and progression across all levels of Primary education. A range of quality core materials is made available to support the GLPS programme and establishments will be advised of additional resources which will enhance the learning and teaching of Gaelic as a second language. It is intended to introduce children to the essential elements of the Gaelic language that will thoroughly prepare them for the further study of Gaelic (Learners). It allows for learners to begin their learning of Gaelic in the early years or later years of primary. Comprehensive information on attainment, achievement and the progress made by children who have accessed GLPS in a primary establishment will be transferred to the associated secondary establishment.

Gaelic Learners’ Education in the secondary school should heighten the awareness among young people of what is special, vibrant and valuable about Gaelic language and culture. It will progressively build on their previous language learning and ensure continuity. It should provide learners with the confidence to use the Gaelic they have learnt by offering sufficient opportunities to practice their newly acquired language through a range of texts and conversations with other learners and fluent Gaelic speakers. Learners will develop an understanding as to why they have learnt Gaelic and how they can use and enjoy it throughout their lives in work and leisure. Learners of Gaelic will be made aware of the academic and economic benefits of additional language acquisition and bilingualism generally, and of the rapidly expanding job opportunities for Gaelic speakers.

The programme of study undertaken in a Gaelic (Learners) secondary class will be at the discretion and judgement of the teacher. It will rely heavily on the vocabulary, language structures and guidelines of nationally produced
materials and the content will be appropriate to the attainment, achievement and enjoyment of all learners. It will comprehensively cover the aspects of language of Talking, Listening, Reading and Writing.

It is expected that GLE practitioners across the 3-18 range, where appropriate, make the learning of Gaelic relevant to the lives of the learners. This can be achieved through the effective use of ICT, active learning, the principles of Assessment is for Learning, the participation in enterprise and citizenship activities, the best use of the local environment and places of special interest and the expertise available within the community. GLE can also contribute greatly to the implementation of Interdisciplinary learning as it is developed in schools. The promotion of Gaelic and languages will be actively undertaken through language days, advertising, events for children and parents and the recognition of achievement locally and nationally. All establishments offering GLE will recognise the achievement of all pupils who have accessed the provision.

Gaelic Learners’ Education will adhere to the principles and practice, and experiences and outcomes set out in curriculum for excellence, 5-14 National Assessment guidelines and the SQA guidelines on National Certificate courses.
Monitoring and Evaluation

Gaelic Medium Education and Gaelic Learners' Education is subject to the same scrutiny by HMIe as any other mainstream education provision.

School management teams have responsibility for the day to day monitoring of the effectiveness of all Gaelic provision within their establishments. The ways in which primary and secondary establishments assess their pupils’ progress in GME and GLE is consistent with local and national guidelines. A comprehensive menu of attainment targets for both GME and GLE are clearly set out in the 5-14 National Guidelines, the Curriculum for Excellence outcomes and experiences and the Scottish Qualifications Authority guidelines.

The authority focus is on recognising achievement, raising attainment and improving the quality of Gaelic learning and teaching.

Key performance indicators for monitoring effectiveness and progress are:-

- The increasing number of pupils accessing Gaelic Medium Education and Gaelic Learners’ Education in existing localities
- An increasing demand for GLPS training for teachers and the number of establishments offering GLPS
- An increasing number of pupils continuing the study of Gaelic (learners) and Gàidhlig beyond S2 and their achievement of quality grades in certificated examinations, according to ability
- The success of GME pupils in achieving broadly equal competence in both Gaelic and English by the end of P7, according to ability
- An increased awareness of what is special, vibrant and valuable about Gaelic language an culture and their ability to communicate effectively in Gaelic
- Parental satisfaction with their child’s progress
- The commitment of establishments to provide balanced, progressive and coherent programmes of study for GME and GLE pupils
- Partnership with national bodies to develop a range of quality resources and programmes of study
- The creation of positive language learning environments and the adoption of a range of teaching styles to stimulate pupils and raise achievement and attainment by establishments
• The Local Moderation of Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig (Fluent Speakers) ability in Speaking and Writing

• The satisfaction of the establishment management teams and Community Services: Education with the quality of teaching and learning in the primary and secondary GME classes and GLE departments.

• The establishment and the authority’s monitoring and evaluation procedures

The Monitoring and Evaluation process for Gaelic Education will be in line with the Guidelines set out in Curriculum for Excellence, SQA, 5-14 National Guidelines and the Authority’s Monitoring and Evaluation procedures.
Meeting Pupils’ Needs

Argyll and Bute Council, Community Services: Education is committed to providing a progressive education for all children and young people in the council area, appropriate to their age, abilities and aptitudes which is provided in a setting where students are valued and safe.

The majority of children and young people with additional support needs in Argyll and Bute have their needs met within mainstream schools. A range of services is provided to support schools in meeting the needs of children and young people.

Education Support Services assist schools and provide support that will include advice and guidance on specific resources, including ICT, and appropriate strategies to support particular groups of children. Children and young people with additional needs may be supported in school by an ASN assistant, language auxiliary, classroom assistant or pupil support assistant. Staff development on meeting the needs of children and young people is available annually.

The Authority’s Policy framework for meeting pupils’ needs is detailed in ‘Supporting Children, Supporting Effective Learning’ and is available in all educational establishments.

The Additional Support for Learning Act, 2004 came into force on 14 November, 2005. A key message from the Act is that it is everyone’s responsibility to meet the needs of children and young people. With this in mind, schools are encouraged to establish a staged approach to supporting pupils.

It is important that children experiencing learning difficulties in Gaelic Medium Education (GME) are identified at an early stage and intervention strategies appropriate to the needs of the child are implemented at the earliest opportunity.

Learning difficulties of a general nature are likely to be identified by pre-school staff through their monitoring system that focuses on physical, cognitive and social skills. Difficulties experienced by the child in any or all curricular areas will be noted in the child’s Pre-School Profile and Pre-School Transition Record. The Transition Record provides school staff with relevant information to ensure continuity and progression from the pre-school to primary stages of education. It also ensures that any support for learning provided at the pre-school unit is continued in the primary school.

Children with significant special educational needs are likely to be identified at the pre-school stage. A Pre-School Assessment Team (PRESCAT) meeting will be convened to discuss the child’s needs and to make recommendations for support.
The educational psychologist has the lead role in PRESCAT meetings and will ensure that the child’s parents / carers and representatives from all relevant agencies are invited to attend the meeting. Reports from PRESCAT meetings provide useful information to pre-school and school staff for the development of early intervention strategies to support the individual child.

Gaelic Medium pupils experiencing difficulties will be assessed by their teacher and language auxiliary using appropriate translated materials, such as QUEST or the recently released Gaelic version of the Special Needs Assessment Profile (SNAP) resource. However, as English is likely to be the home language of all, or most, Gaelic Medium pupils, educational psychologists will conduct their tests in English with the support of the pupil’s Gaelic teacher.

Gaelic Medium establishments are required to make appropriate arrangements to meet the learning needs of all pupils and are required to have structured assessment and monitoring procedures in place.

Gaelic Medium establishments are required to access the support of the Quality Improvement Officer – Additional Support Needs, the Education Support Officer - Gaelic, learning support staff and, where appropriate, Psychological Services to assist with the assessment process.

Where a specific need is identified, the Gaelic teacher, in consultation with their link staff from Support Services will design an appropriate support programme for the child with difficulties. In the first instance, the additional adult support will be from within existing staffing arrangements.
Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The Quality Improvement Team’s Course Catalogue offers a range of courses specifically for Gaelic Pre-School, Primary, and Secondary establishments offering Gaelic Education. The Course Catalogue is available in schools in the summer term.

These courses are delivered by the Education Support Officer – Gaelic, or where appropriate, from external specialist deliverers. To take account of the specific needs of the Gaelic staff and the logistical difficulties associated with gathering highly specialised staff together, CPD courses have been designed to be delivered in a variety of different forms including national courses, centrally held authority courses, and locally based training days in locations throughout the authority.

In addition to the Gaelic courses featured in the Course calendar, Scottish Government Specific Grant funding enables primary and secondary staff to access specialist language training from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

There is also provision for training in Interdisciplinary working, cross-curricular and cross-sectoral projects, Co-operative and Active Learning academies and strategies, Curriculum for Excellence, Information Communications Technology, Special Educational Needs, Child Protection, and Vocational Links as well as the opportunity to attend national events such as Tapestry or Teaching & Learning Communities.

The service will maintain its commitment to the development of Gaelic education by offering a comprehensive range of Gaelic CPD courses through the annual course development catalogue.

The service will maintain close inter-authority collaborative links with other Gaelic providing local authorities in order to coordinate joint local and national CPD provision.
Partnership Working

Community Services: Education maintains close links with a variety of national Gaelic agencies who are involved in similar development work in Gaelic education. This model of partnership working is essential if duplication of effort is to be avoided and to make best use of limited human and financial resources.

Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig
Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig was established by the Scottish Executive in July 1999 to provide a service to all sectors of Gaelic education, and in particular, to co-ordinate the production and distribution of new Gaelic resources to schools. Stòrlann is centrally funded through a 10% top slicing of the Government’s Scheme of Specific Grants for Gaelic Education. An advisory panel of local authority representatives review and agree the annual Gaelic resources programme and Stòrlann conducts an annual teacher evaluation of all resources. Opportunities for partnership working between Stòrlann, LTS and BBC Foghlam will require to be exploited in the future. Significant additional resources will be required to enable Stòrlann to increase the range of Gaelic teaching materials available to establishments.

Comunn na Gàidhlig
Comunn na Gàidhlig is Scotland’s main Gaelic language development agency with specific emphasis on education, youth and community development. Comunn na Gàidhlig receives central and local government funding to progress linguistic and cultural developments.

Comunn nam Pàrant
Comunn nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) is a national Gaelic parental support organisation. Most Gaelic Medium provision in Scotland is supported by a local Comunn nam Pàrant group and these local groups are represented on the management committee of Comunn nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta).

The main aim of Comunn nam Pàrant Nàiseanta is to promote and support the establishment and maintenance of education through the medium of the Gaelic language.

Local Comunn nam Pàrant groups promote the concept of Gaelic Medium education through liaison with their educational establishments, local education service and other national Gaelic agencies.

These constituted local CNP groups are required to represent the views of their parent bodies and provide support to parents who choose Gaelic education for their children. In addition, local CNP groups are encouraged to provide extra-curricular recreational opportunities through Gaelic for children attending Gaelic Medium provision in their areas.

Membership of CNP is open to all parents who have children attending any level of Gaelic Medium provision.
Management Review Group (MRG)
The Management Review Group (MRG) consists of representatives, normally at Directorate level, from Scottish local authorities participating in the Scheme of Specific Grants for Gaelic Education.

The principal remit of the group is to provide strategic support to local authorities offering Gaelic education and those involved in the promotion of Gaelic language and culture.

MRG also has a strategic management overview of the package of Gaelic educational materials projects which are produced annually by Stòrlann Nàisanta na Gàidhlig.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is a Non-departmental Public Body, the Bòrd is directly funded by the Scottish Ministers and is accountable to them. Bòrd na Gàidhlig works to promote Gaelic, and strives in partnership with the Scottish Government, the people of Scotland and the Gaelic organisations to improve the status of the language. It is a priority for Bòrd na Gàidhlig to increase the number of Gaelic speakers and users, and that Gaelic and its culture are respected and esteemed throughout Scotland. Gaelic Education is a priority for Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Bòrd is responsible for advising the Scottish Ministers and other people on Gaelic Education. Bòrd na Gàidhlig is also tasked with formulating a National Strategy for Gaelic Education.

Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS)

Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS) provides advice, support, resources and staff development to the education community, creating a culture of innovation, ambition and excellence throughout Scottish education. LTS is the leading agency in the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

An Comunn Gaidhealach

An Comunn Gàidhealach is one of the oldest and most respected Gaelic organisations. Founded in Oban in 1891, it has long been a leading light in the teaching, learning and use of the Gaelic language and the study and cultivation of Gaelic literature, history, music and art. Through the organisation and running of the Royal National Mòd and grass roots community development work, An Comunn Gaidhealach continues to further it’s aim of supporting and developing all aspects of the Gaelic language, culture, history and heritage at local, national and international levels.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is the organisation which supports the development of community-based Gaelic arts tuition festivals throughout Scotland.
Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle

Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle, the Columba Centre Islay, is a visionary place of cultural, economic and educational significance. The Centre operates in partnership with the Gaelic College on Skye, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, in providing a range of courses in Gaelic language at further and higher education levels and offers teaching rooms, library, childcare unit, meeting and broadcasting facilities, computer suite and exhibition space for the benefit of the whole community.

HMie

HMie has responsibility to evaluate the quality of pre-school education, all schools, teacher education, community learning and development, further education and local authorities. It also publishes reports of interest to the public and professionals about services for children and evaluate child protection services. From this extensive evidence they are able to give the professional advice needed to support the development of educational policy. All inspection reports are published on their website for easy and open access.

Scottish Qualifications Authority

SQA is an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored by the Scottish Government Schools Directorate. It is the national body in Scotland responsible for the development, accreditation, assessment and certification of qualifications other than degrees. The overall aim of the SQA is to manage the qualifications system below degree level to allow students to fulfil their potential to participate in the economy, society and communities of Scotland.

Community Services: Education will continue to maintain close links with national Gaelic development agencies that assist in the promotion and development of Gaelic language and culture.

The Gaelic Education policy will be reviewed and updated in line with Educational developments and initiatives and will reflect future Argyll and Bute Council Gaelic Language Plans.

May 2009