



Briefing on Gaelic Education

May 2014



1. Strategic Objective: Build a world-class curriculum for all learners in Scotland

1.1 The following learning resources are now published to support the **senior phase**:

- National 3 Gaelic (Learners)
- Higher Gaelic (Learners)
- National 3 Gàidhlig
- Higher Gàidhlig
- National 3 GM modern studies
- National 3 GM geography
- National 5 GM mathematics.

1.2 The publication of the following learning resources are also planned to support the **senior phase**:

- National 4 GM mathematics
- National 3 GM Lifeskills mathematics
- National 4 GM Lifeskills mathematics
- Higher GM History
- Higher GM Geography
- Higher GM Modern Studies.

1.3 Schools and education authorities are invited to advise Education Scotland of the subjects that they are offering in the senior phase through the medium of Gaelic. Based on responses we will receive, we will translate learning materials that Education Scotland will be commissioning. Education Scotland acknowledges the co-operation of education authorities in sharing materials they themselves have produced for the new qualifications and are made available on our website.

1.4 Education Scotland, in partnership with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), published **Route Maps through Assessment**. These provide main messages and links for National 4 and National 5. Route maps will also be developed for the new Higher courses and these will be available from the start of the new session.

<http://gaidhlig.educationscotland.gov.uk/stuthantaic/routemaps.asp>

1.5 Education Scotland has supported Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig with a resource pack for Gaelic Medium Education to develop learning on **Commonwealth Games**. This pack has potential to be used as part of interdisciplinary learning.

1.6 Education Scotland, in partnership with the [Scottish Toponymy in Transition](#) project, University of Glasgow, have prepared learning and teaching ideas to develop children and young people's understanding of **Scotland's placenames**. At the early/first level, learners study and explore the local environment, look at common place names and directions and create personal maps of the local environment. At the [Second level](#), learners will look at the study and interpretation of Ordnance Survey maps as well as interviewing local family members about local place/street names. At the [Third level](#), learners will develop an understanding of how place names have evolved and work collaboratively to create an information booklet. At the [Third/Fourth level](#), learners will gain insight into using a variety of maps to compare place name changes over time and present local maps and the stories attached to them. Follow this link to the Ordnance Survey website, [Gaelic Origins of Place Names in Britain](#) to get useful information on placenames that originate from Gaelic.

1.7 SSLN: Literacy - Writing This professional learning resource uses results from the Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy (SSLN) to promote and inform professional reflection, dialogue and debate about writing and how to improve it.

1.8 John Muir Education Pack This resource aims to help teachers understand outdoor learning opportunities, and give confidence to use outdoor spaces for teaching a wide range of experiences and outcomes. The pack for second level encourages structured learning in the outdoors, along with a deeper understanding of John Muir's writings and philosophies. The pack can be used flexibly as stand-alone activities to cover certain aspects of the topic or as activities leading into each other as a programme of learning. The Second Level pack can help with an introduction to the John Muir Award.

2. Strategic Objective: Promote high-quality professional learning and leadership amongst education practitioners

2.1 Education Scotland's Gaelic Education website, [Stòras na Gàidhlig](#) is being reviewed. It now has a section which details new information on Gaelic Learner and Medium Education, as well as Learning about Gaelic Language and Culture. A section has been developed with "Briefings on Gaelic Education". We are continuing to review and update Stòras na Gàidhlig to be more responsive to user needs and to give access to high-quality information on Gaelic Education. If you wish to suggest enhancements to the website, please contact Inverness@EducationScotland.gsi.gov.uk

3. Strategic Objective: Build the capacity of education providers to improve continuously their performance

3.1 Education Scotland supported career-long professional learning in Gaelic Education on

- **Assessment and moderation** in the broad general education
- **Language Learning in Scotland: A 1 + 2 Approach**
- Using inspection evidence to inform **National Guidance on Gaelic Education**.

3.2 Revised national guidance for [Professional Review and Development](#) (PRD) has been published on the Education Scotland website. The guidance is structured around key features of effective PRD processes. It will support teachers, headteachers and system leaders to engage positively in these processes and to improve outcomes for children and young people. It includes links to helpful resources and reflective questions to support self-evaluation and professional dialogue.

3.3 Mentoring Matters is an online tool to support and develop mentoring skills for teachers at every stage of their career. Please visit the website to view the latest materials.

4. Strategic Objective: Influence national policy through evidence-based advice

4.1 Education Scotland, in partnership with practitioners, are producing a framework for the teaching of languages to **P2-7 as part of Language Learning in Scotland: A 1 + 2 Approach**. Gaelic Education is represented by a headteacher whose school's curriculum includes Gaelic Learner and Medium Education 3-12 as well as a visiting teacher of Gaelic Learner Education. The framework will be cognisant of the Education Scotland advice, The Role of Gaelic Education in a 1+2 Approach. [The Role of Gaelic Education in a 1+2 Language Approach](#)

5. Future priorities

5.1 The [CFE Implementation Plan 2014-15](#) sets out objectives with which Education Scotland will be supporting schools in the year ahead. These include some specific to Gaelic Education and others from which Gaelic will also benefit.

5.2 The team for Gaelic Education are currently matching priorities to funding. Our tentative projects specific to Gaelic are undernoted. Gaelic Education will also benefit from specialists in Gaelic Education working with other teams in Education Scotland, for example, assessment, parentzone.

- Promote leadership in Gaelic Medium Education.
- Develop a Gaelic Medium specific mentoring system for NQTs in Gaelic Medium Education and for teachers interested in taking on leadership roles in Gaelic Medium Education.
- Develop diagnostic assessments to assess Gaelic language competency of course applicants for initial teacher education.
- Audit CLPL specific to Gaelic Education.
- Deliver a programme of CLPL including through Glow and conferences.
- Compile key messages on the methodology and principles of Gaelic Medium Education, including total immersion.
- Finalise and engage in implementation activities associated with the National Guidance on Gaelic Education.
- Produce an implementation paper on learning and development through ICT.
- Translation of Education Scotland learning resources to support Curriculum for Excellence.
- Contribute to advisory groups for National Plan for Gaelic, for example, Adult Learning and Secondary Gaelic Medium Curriculum.

6. Previous publications to note

6.1 Support for national policy through evidence-based advice

- Education Scotland advice on the **role of Gaelic Education 3-18** in 'Language Learning in Scotland: A 1 + 2 Approach'. [Role of Gaelic Education in a 1+2 Approach](#).
- Curriculum for Excellence briefing paper on **Learning about Scotland** which includes information on the role of **Scotland's languages in Learning about Scotland**.
- **Aspiring Teachers**, a website for those considering a career in teaching.

6.2 Support for the curriculum: broad general education

- **Available on GLOW:** <http://bit.ly/19FVm1T> Gaelic Stories with Catriona Lexy Campbell & Norman Campbell suitable for primary 4-7.

6.3 Support for the curriculum: senior phase

- National 4 and 5 Gàidhlig
- National 4 and 5 Gaelic (Learners)
- National 4 and 5 GM geography
- National 4 and 5 GM history
- National 4 and 5 GM modern studies
- Education Scotland: Professional Focus Papers for Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/professionalfocuspapers/index.asp>

6.4 Support for the curriculum: assessing progress and achievement

- **Making Good Assessment Decisions 3-18 – Gaelic Version** Wall Poster
http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESWallPoster12Feb_tcm4-732731.pdf
- Desk Poster - http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESDeskPoster13Feb_tcm4-732736.pdf
- **NAR Flowchart – Gaelic Version.**
- **National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS)** summaries of qualifications for Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig.
- **Assessing progress and achievement professional learning resources:** Gàidhlig and Literacy and Gaelic (Learners) early to third curricular levels.
- **Quality Assurance and Moderation – Professional Learning Resource -**
- <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/q/qamplr/introduction.asp>

6.5 Support for high-quality professional learning and leadership amongst education practitioners

- Seminars broadcast live from SLF are all recorded and available on Glow TV to [Watch Again](#).

7. Information from other national organisations

7.1 The Gaelic Books Council: The Lead Organisation for Gaelic Literature in Scotland

The Gaelic Books Council is delighted to be working in collaboration with the Scottish Book Trust to establish an award for a young writer of Gaelic. Teenagers are being offered a golden opportunity with four awards from the Scottish Book Trust being available to people between 14 and 17 who write in Gaelic, English or Scots. The recipients of this year's Young Writers' Awards will receive a prize which includes a six month mentoring period with a published writer, a visit to a top London publisher, a writers' retreat at Moniak Mhòr and the chance to meet industry professionals. Budding authors are invited to submit a piece of creative writing and a personal statement explaining why they would benefit from this programme. The closing date for applications is 27 June 2014. Full details are available at <http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/writing/opportunities-for-writers/young-writers/young-writers-awards>. For more information on the award for Gaelic please contact rosemary@gaelicbooks.org.

The Gaelic Books Council, with the Scottish Book Trust, are hosting a free workshop for those interested in writing through the medium of Gaelic. The workshop will be led by Catriona Lexy Campbell on Saturday 24 May at 1200-1600 at the Gaelic Books Council, 32 Mansfield St, Glasgow, G11 5QP. Participants will be given an opportunity to write stories, poetry, songs or plays. If you are interested in this workshop, please e-mail rosemary@gaelicbooks.org or storiesofhome@scottishbooktrust.com

7.2 CLAS: The Professional Association for Secondary Teachers of Gaelic

CLAS are pleased to launch their annual writing competitions for Gaelic Medium and Gaelic Learner Education. Young people in S1 and S2 are being encouraged to write on a choice of topics related to the significance of the year 2014 for Scotland. Schools should submit their entries by **9 June 2014**. For more information on the competition, please visit www.clas123.wordpress.com/co-fharpaisean. For general information on CLAS, which celebrates its 10th anniversary later this year, please visit www.facebook.com/tidsearan

7.3 Bòrd na Gàidhlig: The development agency for promoting Gaelic Education

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has organised an immersion course for teachers who wish to develop further their language skills to enable them to transfer to or contribute to 3-18 Gaelic Medium Education. The course will take place at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye from **Monday 2nd to Friday 6th June 2014**. Those interested in applying for the course should already have an intermediate level of Gaelic, for example Gaelic (Learners) Higher or An Cùrsa Inntigidh. By attending this course, teachers will

- Develop skills in conversational Gaelic
- Develop skills in reading and writing
- Learn language that is useful in a classroom setting
- Develop knowledge of grammar
- Gain an understanding of the next steps to be taken to successfully transfer to teaching in Gaelic Medium Education.

To request an application form or for more information, please phone 0141 341 102 or e-mail teagasg@gaidhlig.org.uk.

8. Information from local authorities: Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

e-Stòras, a new Gaelic resource, is now live online at [http:// www.e-storas.com](http://www.e-storas.com).

The Multimedia Unit of the Education and Children's Services Department of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has developed a new website to support 3-18 Gaelic Medium Education. Resources support Gàidhlig as well as a range of curricular areas. The website is being continuously updated with new materials to enhance young people's learning opportunities through the medium of Gaelic. For more information, visit the website www.e-storas.com or contact The Multimedia Unit at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar by emailing evelyn.coull@cne-siar.gov.uk

For more information on Education Scotland Foghlam Alba, please visit www.educationscotland.gov.uk and/or contact Inverness@EducationScotland.gsi.gov.uk