



Glasgow City Council

Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Education Services

Contact: Jean Miller Ext: 70204

GAELIC MEDIUM EDUCATION REPORT 2024

Purpose of Report:

To update the committee on the development of Gaelic Medium Education and consider the strategic priorities moving forward.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to consider the report and ask the Executive Director to bring further updates to the Committee when appropriate.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Education (Scotland) Act 2016 places a duty on education authorities to promote and support Gaelic Medium Education (GME) and Gaelic Learner Education (GLE) and establish a process by which parents can request Gaelic Medium Primary Education (GMPE) from their education authority.
- 1.2 Glasgow City Council (GCC) first began to develop Gaelic Medium Education (GME) when it opened Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu in Ashley St, Woodlands in 1999 and then later there was a Gaelic unit at Hillpark Secondary. In August 2006, GCC opened its first dedicated, all-through GME school when the existing GME Primary School, Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu, and the Gaelic unit at Hillpark Secondary School relocated to the former Woodside Secondary in Berkeley Street.
- 1.3 The GME estate has continued to grow over the years and GCC provision is the largest in Scotland with the exception of Western Isles and Highland Councils. Our current provision includes early years provision across five sites, three council and two funded providers - Rowena in the north west, Berkeley Street in the north west, Lyoncross in Pollok in the south, with funded providers operating at Seudan Beaga and Oganon both in the south of the city; current primary school provision exists across four sites – Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu (Glasgow Gaelic *primary at Berkeley Street campus), Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail (Glendale Gaelic), Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Bhaile a' Ghobhainn (Govan Gaelic) and Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig à Challtain (Calton Gaelic), and a secondary provision Ard-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu (Glasgow Gaelic Secondary School) at the Berkeley Street Campus.
- 1.4 It is anticipated that the rolls at the start of the new school session will be as follows;

Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu	392
Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail	155
Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Bhaile a' Ghobhainn	236
Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig à Challtain	55
Ard-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu	546

2 ADMISSIONS

- 2.1 This year some changes were made to the information shared with parents and carers at Primary 1 enrolment stage. This had been discussed with the GME Consultative group and included a link within the Primary 1 enrolment page online to a specific GME page. On this specific page was information prepared by GME headteachers regarding what the immersive GME experience involved. It was felt that some parents and carers in the past were applying for their child to go to GME schools without being fully aware of what this meant in practice and more clarity on the immersive experience would help in making a decision.

- 2.2 The initial number of enrolments was very similar to the previous year with just over 190 children. However, the number of parents seeking a place for their child began to reduce more quickly than the previous year. This was due to places being granted in other schools, including taking up places in catchment EME schools, granted placing requests in other Glasgow EME schools and other Authority schools, and places in private education.
- 2.3 At present (beginning of August) there are 113 confirmed enrolments to GME for an increased cap of 150 places. The enrolments and places available are as follows;

School	Agreed P1 Capacity - Capacity for Govan GME increased 30/11/23 as per AB	Total Registrations (Catchment) correct according to Home Address As At 16/7/24
Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu	50	39
Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig à Challtain	25	19
Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Bhaile a' Ghobhainn	50	33
Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail	25	22
Total	150	113

3 STAFFING

- 3.1 At the start of the session there were particular issues with leadership recruitment in some schools. The secondary, Ard-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, had an acting headteacher. This post was interviewed in May 24 and the school now has a permanent headteacher. An executive headteacher post was advertised in term 1 for the Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann dail and Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Bhaile à Ghobhainn. Unfortunately, this post failed to recruit a candidate. However, there are now two Gaelic speaking Headteachers in acting posts. At Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Bhaile à Ghobhainn there is an acting executive Headteacher and at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail there is an acting headteacher. At the start of the session a gaelic speaking acting Headteacher took over at Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig à Challtain.

- 3.2 There were some vacancies filled over the year in GME and we also recruited for session 24/25 earlier than normal to ensure that we secured staff for vacant posts. We continue to support probationers across both primary and secondary schools.

4 DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig a Challtainn – Calton Gaelic Primary School

Work continues to progress on the old St James primary building and the anticipated date for completion is December 2025. In the interim period, children attend classes at North Kelvinside Primary School. From August 2023, this has been called Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig a Challtainn (Glasgow Calton primary school) and the acting headteacher was appointed in August 2023. It is hoped that by doing this now, the school will begin to develop its own identity and this should ensure a smoother transition when the new building is ready to be occupied.

4.2 Àrd-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu - Glasgow Gaelic Secondary School

As the secondary school continues to expand changes to the physical layout of the building are required. A grant was received from Scottish government and initially decanting the Technical Support Service was being pursued but the cost of this would impact on other changes to the building. Instead TSS will occupy less space and a storage solution is being sought. There is a particular need to upgrade PE changing facilities in the school due to the expansion of the school.

- 4.3 In September 2023, a timetable specialist (former DHT) was brought in for a week to look at the developing curriculum and projected rolls as the school expands over the coming year. His work concluded that the school will have enough capacity until session 2028/29 and the primary would need to move out to accommodate this growth.

4.4 Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu –Glasgow Gaelic Primary School

As has been stated, the exercise to look at the expansion of the secondary school has a direct impact on the primary school. We are now exploring three proposals for the relocation of Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu and these are;

Relocation to an existing provision
Relocation to a refurbished provision
New school built

These proposals are being costed at present and further discussions will be required to reach a decision.

4.5 GME Learning Community

Each of the GME schools are part of a geographical Learning Community (LC). LCs comprise of Headteachers and Early Years Head of Centres who meet regularly and plan for transition and learning initiatives across their schools and early years establishments. However, to support improved working across GME there is now a GME Learning Community with headteachers meeting regularly.

4.6 Foghlam-G

Following discussions with the previous vice-chair of Glasgow City Parents group and present Parent Council co-chair of Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Bhaile a' Ghobhainn, the Education Improvement Service QIO for parent partnerships, has established Foghlam-G. The group focuses on family learning for parents and carers of children in GME. The intention for the group is to have events which will offer practical support to parents on a range of subjects relating to GME, focusing initially on language learning and support for children with additional support needs. The first two meetings have already been held and it is hoped to build on this next session.

5 FUTURE INITIATIVES

5.1 Promoting GME across the city

All the GME schools have agreed to contribute to a short video highlighting the work and achievements of the schools. The intention is for this to be located on the GCC website to promote GME across the city and wider. The video will have input from all the schools and narrated in gaelic with English subtitles. It will hopefully be ready to show at the next Education and Skills committee.

5.2 Gaelic Language, heritage and culture resources for Glasgow primary schools

There was discussion last session regarding the development of a gaelic education resource for all primary schools and at different levels. The resource will have a language element and a Glasgow gaelic heritage and culture focus. It will be helpful in promoting gaelic and also challenging some of the myths around the use of gaelic in the city.

6 SUMMARY

- 6.1 Despite the reduction in children starting primary 1 in GME schools, GME itself still has over 1,380 children and young people being educated through an immersive gaelic speaking education experience in our five GME schools. This is an achievement we continue to be proud of and whilst there are issues to be tackled related to the growth of the estate we continue to offer one of the most significant GME provision out with the more traditional GME areas in Scotland. Indeed Ard-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu is still the only fully immersive GME secondary in Scotland. We also continue to work alongside our GCC colleagues taking forward the Plana Gàidhlig for the city and look for opportunities which will contribute to widening children and young people's knowledge of the impact of gaelic and the gaelic community on the city. With changes coming forward through the Scottish language Bill in the Scottish Parliament, we will continue to seek opportunities with colleagues at Scottish Government to support the development of gaelic in Glasgow's Education Service.

7 POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Resource Implications:

Financial: Within the existing Education Service budget and grants from Scottish Government including some LEIP funding for the new Glasgow Calton primary and a capitol grant for work to be carried out in the secondary school.

Legal: As highlighted in section 1

Personnel: Within existing resources

Procurement: N/A

Council Strategic Plan: Grand Challenge 1 Mission 4 *Support Glasgow to be a city that is active and culturally vibrant* – Agree and implement the Plana Gàidhlig 2023 to 2028.

Grand Challenge 2 Mission 3 *Raise attainment amongst Glasgow's children and young people*- Continue to expand Gaelic Medium Education (GME) provision and maintain GME working group.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.

Outcome 14 Glasgow City Council (Education Services) has continued to improve outcomes in relation to attainment and achievement for children and young people including those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, those for whom English is not their first language, those who identify as black and minority ethnic, and disabled children and young people

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

Positive impact in relation to supporting the development of Gaelic language in the city.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

It may offer opportunities to young people in the area of Gaelic language employment.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

No

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

None

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

No

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report
Y/N

No

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to consider the report and ask the Executive Director to bring further updates to the Committee when appropriate.