

**Commitment to multilingualism, bilingual families and heritage families in Glasgow's schools – Emergency motion as adjusted, approved.**

**9** Councillor Blench, seconded by Councillor Cannon, moved that:-

“Council deplores comments made last week by Nigel Farage MP, describing multilingualism in Glaswegian schools as “cultural smashing”. Council recognises this is an attempt to sow division within Glasgow schools based on the ethnicity, nationality and language of our schoolchildren and that this is a racist attack on them.

Council reiterates its pride in the multilingualism of Glaswegian children and in all those who work within our education department to create an environment where all children can thrive and benefit from sharing in many different cultures; recognises that many languages other than English are spoken natively by families in our city, both those originating in the UK such as Scots, Gaelic and British Sign Language (BSL), and originating elsewhere; that the right to a family life includes deciding which language is the home language; that for many children in our city, in Gaelic Medium Education and in BSL education, English is not the language of instruction; and that all children educated in Glasgow are equally Glaswegian, whatever their native language.

Council praises the efforts of teachers and school staff throughout the city who work tirelessly to promote the use of a variety of languages in educational settings.

Council further offers its solidarity with anti-racist demonstrators in Falkirk on December 6th who opposed both the ongoing racist campaign of hate by racist protestors targeting asylum seekers in the Cladhan Hotel and the Farage Reform UK rally held that day, which was organised to make political capital from whipping up racism in Scotland.

Council therefore commends the work led by headteachers across all schools in Glasgow which demonstrates the council's commitment to multiculturalism and support for bilingual families, and which has helped to create a learning environment in which multiculturalism, including heritage languages, are promoted and enabled to thrive.”

Councillor Ahmed, seconded by Councillor Johnstone, moved as an amendment that the following be added at the end:-

“Council further commends the work of Glasgow City Council's English for Speakers of Other Languages team over the past two decades to create a supportive learning environment for both children and parents. Notes engagement the Education, Children and Young People's Committee has had with ESOL, and supports them to continue their long-standing work for years to come.”

Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, moved as an amendment that the following be added at the end:-

“Council also asks officers to bring a report to a future Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee meeting setting out what additional support is being provided to schools, staff, pupils and families in the face of a potential increase in racist harassment, abuse, trolling and intimidation.”

Bailie Seonad Hoy, seconded by Councillor Massie, moved as an amendment that:-

(1) after the third paragraph insert the following:

“Council recalls that Glasgow became a UNESCO Learning City in December 2024, and that a key aspect of this status relates to Glasgow’s focus on inclusivity, providing English language courses and supporting vulnerable populations. Council applauds all providers of English as a Second Language (ESOL) courses, including colleges and third sector provision, which support new arrivals to integrate into their communities.”; and

(2) after the fourth paragraph insert the following:

“Council reaffirms its commitment to anti-racism and its view that Scotland is a welcoming country for all who settle here.”

Councillor Blench, with the approval of his seconder, accepted the amendments by Councillor Ahmed, Councillor Anderson and Bailie Hoy, resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

“Council deplores comments made last week by Nigel Farage MP, describing multilingualism in Glaswegian schools as “cultural smashing”. Council recognises this is an attempt to sow division within Glasgow schools based on the ethnicity, nationality and language of our schoolchildren and that this is a racist attack on them.

Council reiterates its pride in the multilingualism of Glaswegian children and in all those who work within our education department to create an environment where all children can thrive and benefit from sharing in many different cultures; recognises that many languages other than English are spoken natively by families in our city, both those originating in the UK such as Scots, Gaelic and British Sign Language (BSL), and originating elsewhere; that the right to a family life includes deciding which language is the home language; that for many children in our city, in Gaelic Medium Education and in BSL education, English is not the language of instruction; and that all children educated in Glasgow are equally Glaswegian, whatever their native language.

Council praises the efforts of teachers and school staff throughout the city who work tirelessly to promote the use of a variety of languages in educational settings. Council recalls that Glasgow became a UNESCO Learning City in December 2024, and that a key aspect of this status relates to Glasgow’s focus on inclusivity, providing English language courses and supporting vulnerable populations. Council applauds all providers of English as a Second Language (ESOL) courses, including colleges and third sector provision, which support new arrivals to integrate into their communities.

Council further offers its solidarity with anti-racist demonstrators in Falkirk on December 6th who opposed both the ongoing racist campaign of hate by racist protestors targeting asylum seekers in the Cladhan Hotel and the Farage Reform UK rally held that day, which was organised to make political capital from whipping up racism in Scotland. Council reaffirms its commitment to anti-racism and its view that Scotland is a welcoming country for all who settle here.

Council therefore commends the work led by headteachers across all schools in Glasgow which demonstrates the council's commitment to multiculturalism and support for bilingual families, and which has helped to create a learning environment in which multiculturalism, including heritage languages, are promoted and enabled to thrive.

Council further commends the work of Glasgow City Council's English for Speakers of Other Languages team over the past two decades to create a supportive learning environment for both children and parents. Notes engagement the Education, Children and Young People's Committee has had with ESOL, and supports them to continue their long-standing work for years to come.

Council also asks officers to bring a report to a future Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee meeting setting out what additional support is being provided to schools, staff, pupils and families in the face of a potential increase in racist harassment, abuse, trolling and intimidation."

The motion, as adjusted, was thereafter unanimously approved.