



**Glasgow City Council**

**Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee**

**Report by Interim Executive Director of Education Services**

**Contact: John McGhee Ext: 74560**

**Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig 2025/2026  
Gaelic Medium Education 2025/26**

**Purpose of Report:**

To update the committee on the development of Gàidhlig (Gaelic) Medium Education across the Education Service's estate.

**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 Gàidhlig (Gaelic) Medium Education (GME) and Gàidhlig Learner Education (GLE) and establish a process by which parents can request Gàidhlig Medium Primary Education (GMPE) from their education authority.

**1.2** Glasgow City Council (GCC) first began to develop Gàidhlig Medium Education (GME) when it opened Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu in Ashley St, Woodlands in 1999 and then later there was a Gàidhlig unit at Hillpark Secondary. In August 2006, GCC opened its first dedicated, all-through GME school when the existing GME Primary School, Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, and the Gàidhlig 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 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (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 Òganan both in the south of the city; There are currently four primary schools – Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig 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 Ghàidhlig a' Challtainn (Calton Gaelic), and a secondary provision Ard-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu (Glasgow Gaelic Secondary School) at the Berkeley Street Campus.

**1.4** The present rolls of all the schools are as follows ;

Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu	362
Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail	132
Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Bhaile a' Ghobhainn	234
Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig a' Challtainn	57
Ard-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu	573

## 2 Admissions

**2.1** Over the past three years admissions at Primary 1 to GME have significantly decreased. This is despite an increase in the overall cap. The overall decrease for English Medium Education (EME) last session was 13%. It should be noted that primary rolls within GME across the city have decreased by an average of 8%. This year, although the intake looks to be higher, this can change quickly and a number of parents do have placing requests into other schools awaiting decisions. With a decreasing EME primary roll, these have a better chance of being successful.

**2.2** This year's enrolment figures for each school are as follows;

SCHOOL	Sustainable Cap	Enrolments @ 16/2/26	PR out pending
Glasgow Gaelic School	48	59	12
Govan GS	47	47	6
Glendale GS	25	34	16
Calton GS	20	31	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>44</b>

**2.3** Total final school enrolment figures to primary 1 are now;

2025/26	89 (cap of 146)
2024/25	101 (cap of 147)
2023/24	120 (cap of 140)
2022/23	118 (cap of 140)

All year groups have decreased over the year for various reasons including families moving, eventually getting an EME place, child not settling in GME.

**2.4** The equalities breakdown for GME is as follows;

School	SIMD 1	SIMD 2	SIMD 3	SIMD 4	SIMD 5	Not known
Ardsgoil Glasgow Gaelic Secondary School	22.4%	20.1%	10.3%	26.3%	20.9%	0.0%
Bunsgoil Glasgow Gaelic Primary School	27.0%	20.8%	14.3%	13.8%	23.9%	0.3%
Calton Gaelic Primary School	37.3%	17.6%	23.5%	19.6%	2.0%	0.0%
Glendale Gaelic Primary School	16.4%	23.7%	10.5%	32.9%	16.4%	0.0%
Govan Gaelic Primary School	27.9%	25.0%	9.6%	27.5%	10.0%	0.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24.6%</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>23.5%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>

Row Labels	BME	Not known / not disclosed	White - Other	White - Scottish/British
Ardsgoil Glasgow Gaelic Secondary School	5.6%	0.8%	5.3%	88.3%
Bunsgoil Glasgow Gaelic Primary School	7.5%	6.0%	7.5%	79.0%
Calton Gaelic Primary School	11.8%	5.9%	2.0%	80.4%
Glendale Gaelic Primary School	11.2%	5.9%	5.3%	77.6%
Govan Gaelic Primary School	6.7%	8.3%	6.7%	78.3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>82.4%</b>

### 3 Staffing

**3.1** All primary schools having Headteachers in post. There is GME long term maternity leave cover in Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig a' Challtainn, an EME maternity cover in Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig a' Ghobhainn, an acting GME (early career) Headteacher in Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail and a permanent headteacher in Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. There is a permanent Headteacher in Ard-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu.

**3.2** Presently there are 52.4 fte teachers in primary schools and 51.4fte teachers in secondary schools. There are no known long term vacancies and all primary classes have a GME teacher.

### 4 Schools' developments

**4.1 Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig a' Challtainn**, our fourth GME primary school, will be completed by December 2026 and the school will relocate from North Kelvinside primary to the new school in the North East of the city at Calton in January 2027.

Following a further £2 million investment from Scottish Government, in June 2025 the site was visited by the Deputy First Minister, Kate Forbes who praised the work to promote GME in the city. This new school is a major milestone and real evidence of the institutional commitment to expanding Gàidhlig provision to meet demand in Scotland's largest city.

**4.2 Ard-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu** continues to grow albeit not at the same pace as was expected in 2021/22. The school was anticipated to reach 850 by 2032 but revised figures area as follows;

**PROJECTED SECONDARY ROLL (ASSUMING 100% P7 TRANSFER & SENIOR PHASE RETENTION)**

	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>
<b>S1</b>	116	119	129	118	120	101	89
<b>S2</b>	108	116	119	129	118	120	101
<b>S3</b>	104	108	116	119	129	118	120
<b>S4</b>	111	104	108	116	119	129	118
<b>S5</b>	83	111	104	108	116	119	129
<b>S6</b>	91	83	111	104	108	116	119
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>676</b>

Space has been created by condensing the TSS space and the school now has a nurture base. Another Science room was also made available, and the school now has 7 science rooms. At the end of this session, more classrooms from the primary will become available as was planned with a reduced cap in Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. Planning and discussions continue regrading sharing of spaces between the schools and nursery as they do for all our campus schools.

**4.3 Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu** has a lower intake and this was planned due to Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig a' Chaltainn coming on stream. Discussions continue, including with Scottish Government, regarding a potential new school in the future but funding is an issue, and also the need for improved ASL facilities in our estate.

**4.4 Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig a' Ghobhainn** acting Headteacher Paul Cassidy is now working full-time as a Quality Improvement Officer and primarily supporting GME and the GME schools. There is an acting GME Headteacher in place. They are about to go on maternity leave and will be replaced by an acting EME Headteacher until the return from maternity leave.

**4.5 Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail** has an acting Headteacher at present who is keen to stay long term in the school. He is a Gàidhlig speaker whose Gàidhlig is improving through working in the school.

## **5. Leadership**

**5.1** There is good evidence now that the work of central staff to develop leadership. The QIO is supporting a working group across the GME estate to create a pathway that specifically supports GME staff who wish to progress into leadership with the traditional leadership offering as well as GME specific areas.

**5.1** The QIO with responsibility for GME is also an Associate Assessor with HMIE and has a national overview of the standards by which HMIE assess school generally and within the GME sector; this ensures that improvement planning is in line with the most up-to-date guidance available.

## **6. Schools' Learning Community**

**6.1** All the GME schools are part of a Learning Community and this has improved planning and sharing of learning across the schools. Last session, through self-evaluation, the Learning Community embarked on a shared SIP grand challenge to improve approaches to immersion across the schools. All primary staff (teaching and support staff) attended training on this as a group of Gàidhlig teachers developing collegiately and looking outwards beyond their establishments. Three GME Headteachers visited the Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis (Inverness Gàidhlig School) in Highland Council to make links and support curricular development, again looking outwards at other practice and sharing good and innovative practice.

## **7. Foghlam-G Parents Support**

**7.1** In partnership with Glasgow Live and Council Officers, parents who lead Foghlam-G ran an 8-week Saturday morning course for parents of children in GME with childcare provided. There were strengths and areas for development when the course was completed.

20 beginners were registered for the first session, however, only 10 attended. By the last session 7 learners remained. Full attendance was 47 over the 8 weeks  
20 intermediate learners registered for the first session and 14 attended. By the last session 8 remained. Full attendance was 64 over the 8 weeks

## **8 Further Important Developments**

### **8.1 Mòd Ghlaschu 2026**

A Principal Teacher from the BSGG is to organising events for the Mòd which is taking place in Glasgow in October 2026. The QIO has had several meetings and the PT is the link to the local organising committee. The offer regarding the Mòd is a universal one to both GME and EME schools across Glasgow. It includes;

- Digital resources to be created for Early Years and Primary Schools to support a Gàidhlig taster course in all schools/nurseries in the city
- A series of events including a family cèilidh, a Saturday Gàidhlig fun day, a formal concert in the weeks and months before the Mòd
- There will be opportunities to work with groups delivering various sports through the medium of Gàidhlig

Targeted Support (GME schools mostly)

- Supporting GME teachers to promote children to take part in the competitions including poetry, singing and choirs
- Working with Gàidhlig cultural organisations to provide support to those entering the various competitions
- Using Lord Provost's Poetry competition entries to create a display of children's work on the theme 'Hidden Glasgow'

## **8.2 Lord Provost's Poetry Competition**

To coincide with the Mòd, we are having a separate Gàidhlig prize for the Lord Provost's Poetry Competition. All materials have been translated and are out with schools. Deadline is March 2026.

## **8.3 Commonwealth Games**

The writing on the Learning Community Commonwealth batons have been translated into Gàidhlig and all materials for distribution to schools will be translated as soon as they are completed.

## **8.4 Areas of Linguistic Significance**

With the new legislation, the QIO has been supporting policy makers within the Chief Executive's office to unpick the draft document on how Glasgow will be designated as an Area of Linguistic Significance. This will be an important development within GCC and requires input from all departments.

## **8.5 Seachdain na Gàidhlig**

World Gàidhlig Week takes place 23 February – 1 March 2026 and there are events planned in each of the schools to celebrate the week and promote Gàidhlig culture.

## **8.6 An Deasbad Nàiseanta**

Glasgow was delighted to support our colleagues in Comhairle nan Eilean Siar with funding to ensure that the National Debate takes place for senior pupils across the country

## 8.7 CNAG

An Iomairt officer at Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) has been appointed to support children and young people's activities in Gàidhlig in Glasgow.

Key responsibilities of an Iomairt Officer include:

- Community Engagement: Actively working with communities to promote Gàidhlig usage.
- Event Organising: Planning and delivering local activities and projects, such as FilmG, sports, music, and drama.
- Youth Support: Often providing support for young people to engage with the language.
- Networking: Collaborating with other officers for peer support and professional development.

## 9. Summary

As has been evidenced, GCC commitment to Gàidhlig Medium education continues to be strong. There is a total of 1358 children and young people in our schools and we are looking forward to the official opening of the new Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig a' Challtainn in January 2027. The return of a Quality Improvement Officer with GME and the wider promotion of Gàidhlig as part of their remit, is making a significant difference in supporting schools and staff and improving quality in the sector. The increased collaboration amongst the GME schools is allowing better sharing of information, including community activities, to the benefit of our children and young people. We continue to be proud of the growing GME provision and whilst there are always challenges due to this, we remain focused on offering the children and young people experiencing our schools the best education possible to achieve their potential.

## 10 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	Within the existing Education Service budget and grants from Scottish Government including LEIP funding towards the building of the new Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig a' Ghlaschu.
<i>Legal:</i>	As Highlighted in section 1
<i>Personnel:</i>	Within existing resources
<i>Procurement:</i>	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 Gàidhlig Medium Education (GME) provision and maintain GME working group.

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29? 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 Gàidhlig 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 Gàidhlig 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

## **11 Recommendations**

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