



**Tòisich  
Start**



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[www.gaidhlig.org.uk/fdp](http://www.gaidhlig.org.uk/fdp)





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Nuair a thig e gu foghlam cloinne, tha na roghainnean a nì sibh cudromach agus math dh'fhaodte gur e aon de na co-dhùnaidhean as fìor chudromaiche a nì sibh an cànan a thaghas sibh airson foghlam ur pàiste. Thathar an dòchas gun cuidich an leabhran fiosrachaidh seo sibh ann a bhith a' tighinn chun a' cho-dhùnaidh sin agus gum freagair e a' mhòr-chuid de na ceistean a dh'fhaodadh a bhith agaibh mu dheidhinn dà-chànanas agus foghlam Gàidhlig.

Tha Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig air aon de na prìomh dhòighean air tighinn gu fileantachd sa Ghàidhlig, no an fhileantachd a ghleidheadh. Tha Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig fosgailte dhan a h-uile duine, iadsan a bhruidhneas Gàidhlig agus nach bruidhinn. Chan eil Gàidhlig mar chiad chànan aig a' mhòr-chuid chloinne a tha a' dol a-steach gu Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig.

Faodar sgoilearan aig nach eil Gàidhlig bho thùs, agus gu dearbh a thig à dachannan agus coimhearsnachdan anns nach eil Gàidhlig idir an toirt gu fileantachd sa chànan tro mhodh-ionnsachaidh ris an canar 'bogadh'. Tha bogadh a' ciallachadh gu bheil sgoilearan air an teagasg ann an Gàidhlig a-mhàin, fhad 's a bhios iad a' dèanamh nan rudan àbhaisteach a bhios clann a' dèanamh ann an tràth-bhliadhnaichean am foghlaim – cròileagan, sgoil-àraich agus bun-sgoil. Bidh na tidsearan aca a' cur a h-uile cothrom a tha ann gu feum airson sgilean Gàidhlig na cloinne adhartachadh – tro òrain, sgeulachdan, geamachan agus gu h-àraidh cluich.

Tha Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig na phàirt den siostam foghlaim na h-Alba agus tha e a' toirt cothrom dhan chloinn uile ann an Alba a bhith dà-chànanach.

The choices you make regarding your child's education are important and one of the most crucial decisions may be the language you choose to educate your child in. This information booklet will hopefully help inform that choice and answer most of the questions you might have regarding bilingualism and Gaelic education.

Gaelic-medium education is one of the main ways of achieving or maintaining fluency in Gaelic. Gaelic-medium education is open to everyone, those who speak Gaelic and those who do not. The majority of children entering Gaelic-medium education do not have Gaelic as their first language.

Pupils who are not Gaelic speakers to start with, indeed who come from non-Gaelic speaking homes and communities, can be brought to fluency in the language through what is referred to as immersion. Immersion means that pupils are taught only in Gaelic, while they are doing the usual things that children do in the early years of their education - in playgroup, nursery and primary school. Their teachers utilise all available opportunities to develop pupils' Gaelic skills - through songs, stories, games and especially through play.

Gaelic-medium education is part of the Scottish education system and provides an opportunity for all children in Scotland to be bilingual.







# **Buannachdan bho dà-chànanas** **The advantages of bilingualism**

Tha dà-chànanas a' ciallachadh gun urrainn dhut dèiligeadh ri pàirtean dhed bheatha làitheil ann an dà chànan.

Tha dà-chànanas fada nas bitheanta ann an dùthchannan eile na tha e ann am Breatainn. Tha tuairmse ann gu bheil eadar 60% agus 65% de shluagh an t-saoghail a' cleachdadh co-dhiù dà chànan nam beatha làitheil.

Tha clann air am breith leis a' chomas a bhith dà-chànanach no ioma-chànanach. Tha barrachd rùm na dh'fheumte san eanchainn airson dà no iomadach cànan.

Bilingualism means being able to conduct aspects of everyday life in two languages.

Bilingualism is much more common in other countries than it is in Britain. It is estimated that between 60% and 65% of people in the world use at least two languages in their everyday lives.

Children are born with the ability to become bilingual and multilingual. There is more than enough room in the brain for two or more languages.

# Na buannachdan ann a bhith dà-chànanach

Seo cuid de na buannachdan a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ann an dà-chànanas agus foghlam dà-chànanach mar a tha iad air an sanasachd an-dràsta:

## Buannachdan Conaltraidh

1. Conaltradh nas fharsainge (an teaghlach farsaing, coimhearsnachd, ceanglaichean eadar-nàiseanta, cosnadh)
2. Litearra ann an dà chànan

## Buannachdan Cultarach

3. Beairteas cultarach nas fharsainge, ioma-chultarachd nas doimhne, agus eòlas air dà 'shaoghal cànan'
4. Barrachd co-fhaireachdainn agus nas lugha gràin-cinnidh

## Buannachdan a thaobh Tuigse

5. Buannachdan smaoineachaidh (cruthachail, nas mothachaile a thaobh conaltraidh)

## Buannachdan Pearsanta

6. Fèin-mheas nas fheàrr
7. Dearbh-aithne nas cinntiche

## Buannachdan Clàr-oideachais

8. Barrachd soirbheachais sa chlàr-oideachais
9. Nas fhasa treas cànan ionnsachadh

## Buannachdan Ionmhais

10. Toraidhean eaconamach agus cosnaidh

'A Parents' and Teachers' Guide to Bilingualism', An t-Àrd-ollamh Colin Baker, Eòlaiche Eadar-nàiseanta air Foghlam Dà-chànanach

# The advantages of being bilingual

Some of the potential advantages of bilingualism and bilingual education currently publicised are:

## Communication Advantages

1. Wider communication (extended family, community, international links, employment)
2. Literacy in two languages

## Cultural Advantages

3. Broader enculturation, a deeper multiculturalism, and two 'language worlds' of experience
4. Greater tolerance and less racism

## Cognitive Advantages

5. Thinking benefits (creativity, sensitivity to communication)

## Character Advantages

6. Raised self-esteem
7. Security in identity

## Curriculum Advantages

8. Increased curriculum achievement
9. Easier to learn a third language

## Cash Advantages

10. Economic and employment benefits

'A Parents' and Teachers' Guide to Bilingualism', Professor Colin Baker, International Expert on Bilingual Education



## **An ionnsaich mo phàiste dà chànan dìreach leth cho math 's a ionnsaicheadh e/i aon?**

Cha mhòr gu bheil crìoch air a' chomas a tha aig pàiste cànanan ionnsachadh agus ann an cuid a dhùthchannan bidh clann a tha glè òg a' bruidhinn trì no ceithir chànanan. 'S urrainn sgilean mar leughadh a bhith air an cleachdadh gu furasta eadar cànanan.

## **Chan e Beurla no Gàidhlig cànan ar dachaigh. An ionnsaich iad fhathast Beurla mhath ma chuireas sinn gu sgoil tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig iad?**

Ionnsaichidh. Tha e cha mhòr do-dhèante fàs suas san latha an-diugh ann an Alba gun a bhith ag ionnsachadh Beurla a bhruidhinn. Bidh ur pàiste bogte ann am Beurla ann an iomadh suidheachadh sòisealta, cuid dhiubh sin san sgoil fhèin, mura bi e/i a' frithealadh sgoil le Gàidhlig a-mhàin 's chan e sgoil le Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig agus na Beurla. A' tòiseachadh ann an clas a trì, bidh clann ann am Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a' cur nan sgilean a dh'ionnsaich iad tron Ghàidhlig gu feum airson na Beurla, 's chan fhada gus am bi iad ioma-chànanach. 'S fhiach cuimhneachadh gu bheil a' gabhail ri ioma-chànanas mar nì àbhaisteach air feadh an t-saoghail; tha an Rìoghachd Aonaichte gu math annasach ann a bhith a' sealltainn air aon-chànanas mar nì 'àbhaisteach'.

## **Tha mo phàiste a' bruidhinn measgachadh de Ghàidhlig 's de Bheurla. Dè bu chòir dhomh a dhèanamh?**

Faodaidh clann a tha a' cluinntinn dà chànan no barrachd greis a thoirt mus ionnsaich iad sgaradh a dhèanamh eatarra agus fhad 's a tha seo a' tachairt chan eil e na rud neo-àbhaisteach dhaibh measgachadh de chànanan a bhith anns an aon seantans. Chan e buannachd sam bith a tha ann clann a chàineadh no a cheartachadh aig an ìre sin agus 's ann a dh'fhaodadh cus ceartachaidh an adhartas ann an cànanan a chumail air ais agus iad a bhith neo-dheònach còmhraidh a dhèanamh. Gabh ealla ris na facail agus abairtean Beurla a tha iad buailteach a chleachdadh agus cleachd Gàidhlig co-ionann nur cainnt fhèin agus dèan cinnteach gun seachain sibh measgachadh de Ghàidhlig 's de Bheurla. Dh'fhaodadh gu bheil iad a' measgachadh chànanan airson a' bhuaidh a tha aige, rud a tha gu tur nàdarach do dhaoine dà-chànanach.

## **Will my child learn two languages only half as well as one?**

There is almost no limit to a child's ability to learn languages and in some countries very young children can speak three or four languages. Skills such as reading can easily be transferred between languages.

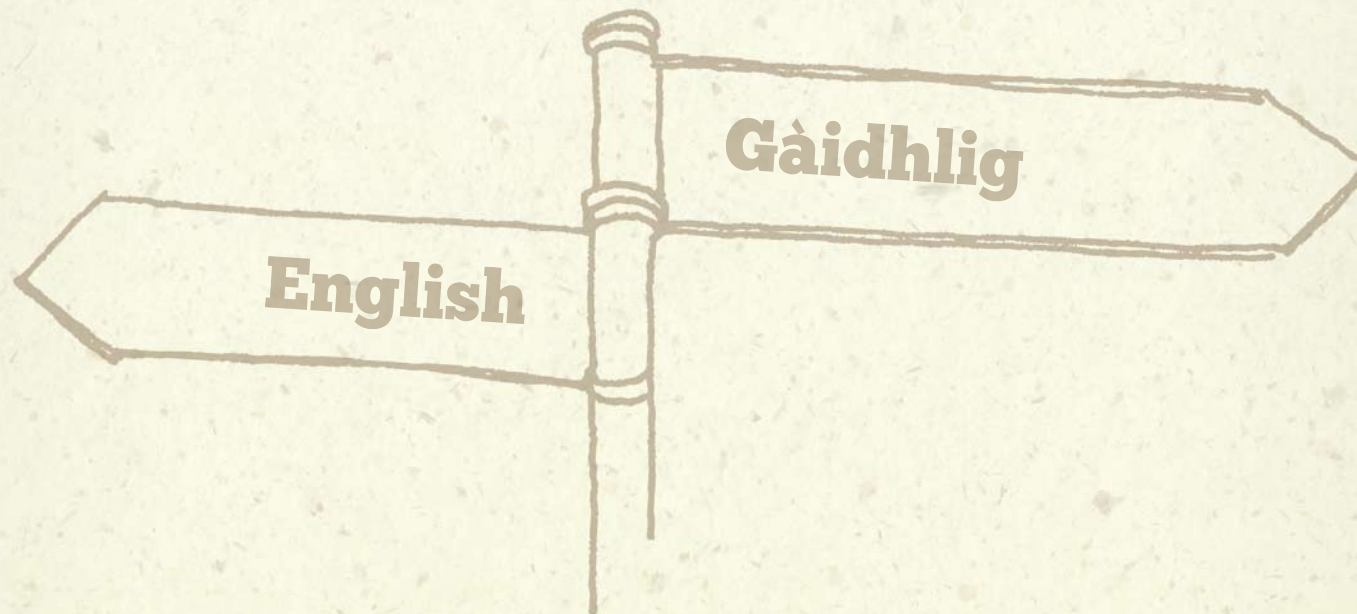
## **Our home language isn't Gaelic or English. Will they still learn to use English well if we send them to a Gaelic-medium school?**

They will. It would be almost impossible to grow up in Scotland today without learning to speak English. Your child will be immersed in English in many social situations, including some within school, unless (s)he attends a dedicated Gaelic school as opposed to a school with Gaelic-medium and English-medium education. From primary three onwards children in Gaelic-medium education will be taught to apply the language skills learned through Gaelic to English, and will quickly become multilingual. It is worth remembering that multilingualism is accepted as normal throughout the world; the UK is in fact very unusual in viewing monolingualism as the 'norm'.

## **My child speaks a mixture of Gaelic and English. What should I do about it?**

Children who are exposed to two or more languages may take some time before they learn to distinguish between them and during this transition period it is not unusual for them to have a mixture of languages in one sentence. There is little to be gained by criticising or correcting children at this stage and overcorrecting may even impede their language development and result in a reluctance to engage in conversation. Note the English words and phrases they tend to use and incorporate the Gaelic equivalent into your own speech and make sure that you avoid using a mixture of Gaelic and English. They may be mixing languages for effect which is perfectly normal for bilinguals.





### A bheil am pàiste dà-chànanach nas slaodaiche ag ionnsachadh bruidhinn?

Chan eil riaghailt dhaingean ann airson cuin a thòisicheas pàiste ri bruidhinn ach 's àbhaist dha a bhith eadar ochd mìosan agus còig mìosan deug. Sa chumantas, tòisichidh nigheanan beagan nas tràithe na gillean agus bidh a' chiad phàiste ann an teaghlach buailteach tòiseachadh a' bruidhinn nas tràithe na an dàrna no an treas leanabh. Bidh cuid mhath (ged nach bi iad uile) de chloinn a tha dà-chànanach fada gun bhruidhinn, rud a tha a' ciallachadh gun toir e nas fhaide dhaibh tòiseachadh air bruidhinn na clann le aon chànan ged a tha iad gu h-àbhaisteach a' tuigsinn an dà chànan gu math. Tha e cudromach gu bheil fios aig daoine gu bheil dàil mar sin (a) cumanta (b) gum bu chòir dùil a bhith ris, agus (c) sa chumantas nach e adhbhar dragh idir a tha ann. Bidh gu dearbh bacaidhean cainnte aig clann dà-chànanach, dìreach mar a bhios aig clann le aon chànan. Tha an cunnart ann, ge-tà, ma bhios pàiste mall air tòiseachadh a' bruidhinn gum feuch càirdean no luchd-slàinte proifeiseanta ri thoirt a chreidsinn air na pàrantan gur ann air sgàth 's gu bheil iad a' bruidhinn dà chànan ris / rithe a tha sin a' tachairt agus gun toir iad comhairle cheàrr gun ach Beurla a bhruidhinn.

### A bheil am pàiste dà-chànanach a cheart cho math san dà chànan?

'S ann ainneamh a tha comas co-ionann aig neach ann an dà chànan. Gu h-àbhaisteach bidh amannan ann nuair a bhios aon chànan no an cànan eile nas làidire agus 's àbhaist do luchd-labhairt dà-chànain a bhith a' bruidhinn mu chuspairean sònraichte ann an aon chànan seach sa chànan eile a tha aca.

### Is the bilingual child slower in learning to talk?

No strict rule can be laid down as to when a child begins to talk but it is usually between the age of eight and fifteen months. Generally girls talk a little earlier than boys and the first child in the family tends to begin to speak earlier than the second or third child. Many (but not all) bilingual children are late talkers, which means that they start speaking later than monolinguals even though they usually understand both languages well. It is important that people know that these delays are (a) common, (b) to be expected, and (c) generally nothing to worry about. There are of course speech impairments in bilingual children, exactly like in monolingual children. There is a danger however that if a child is slow in beginning to speak, relations or health professionals might try to persuade parents that this is because they are speaking two languages to him / her and wrongly advise that they should switch to only using English.

### Does the bilingual child have equal proficiency in both languages?

Equal proficiency in two languages is rare. Normally a person goes through periods when one of the languages is dominant and bilinguals are usually more comfortable speaking about certain topics in one rather than the other of their two languages.

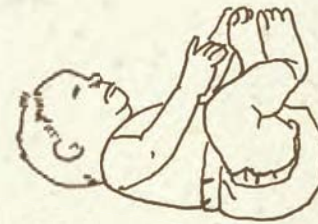






# Foghlam ro-sgoile

## Pre-school education



**Tha na tha ann de dh'fhoghlam tron Ghàidhlig ron sgoil, mar a tha cròileagain agus sgoiltean àraich, na chiad cheum cudtromach air slighe an fhoghlain fhoirmeil.**

Ann am mòran sgìrean tha buidhnean Pàrant agus Pàiste a tha air an ruith le comataidh shaor-thoileach agus a bhios a' fastadh stiùiriche-cluiche. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cumail taic ris na buidhnean sin.

Tha Cròileagain cuideachd air an ruith le comataidhean saor-thoileach agus tha a' mhòr-chuid a' fastadh aon no barrachd stiùirichean-cluiche.

Ann an cuid mhath de sgìrean a-nis, tha sgoiltean-àraich air an ruith leis an ùghdarras ionadail agus gu h-àbhaisteach tha iad ceangailte ris an sgoil no na sgoiltean anns a bheil an ùghdarras ionadail a' tabhann foghlam bun-sgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

### **A bheil Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig comasach dhuinn mura bruidhinn sinn Gàidhlig sinn fhìn?**

Tha. A' chuid as motha den chloinn ann am Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, 's ann à dachannan gun Ghàidhlig a tha iad. Tha cuideachadh agus cothroman ann do phàrantan airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh. Tha tòrr sgoiltean a' solar taic le cànan agus obair-dachaigh do phàrantan. Tha [www.Gaelic4Parents.com](http://www.Gaelic4Parents.com) a' libhrigeadh taic air-loidhne agus lìonra nàiseanta do phàrantan aig a bheil clann ann am Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig.

### **Am feum mo phàiste a bhith ann am buidheann Ghàidhlig ro-sgoile mus tèid e/i gu Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig?**

Ged nach eil sin gu tur riatanach, bhiodh e na b' fheàrr ma ghabhas e idir dèanamh. Tha buidhnean 0-3 agus 3-5 rim faotainn anns a' chuid as motha de sgìrean far a bheil Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig.

Gheibhear barrachd fiosrachaidh bho Bòrd na Gàidhlig no Comann nam Pàrant.

**Pre-school Gaelic-medium provision, in the form of playgroups and nurseries, is an important first step in the formal education process.**

Many areas have Pàrant agus Pàiste, parent-and-toddler groups, which are usually run by a volunteer committee and may employ a play-leader. Bòrd na Gàidhlig supports this sector.

Cròileagain, Gaelic play-groups are again run by volunteer committees and most employ one or more play-leaders.

Sgoil Àraich (nursery) provision is now available in many areas and is normally attached to the school or schools in which the local authority offers Gaelic-medium education.

### **Is Gaelic-medium education possible if we can't speak Gaelic ourselves?**

Yes. Most children in Gaelic-medium education come from non-Gaelic speaking homes. There is help available and opportunities for parents to learn Gaelic. Many schools provide Gaelic language and homework support for parents. [www.Gaelic4Parents.com](http://www.Gaelic4Parents.com) provides online support and a national network for parents of children in Gaelic-medium education.

### **Does my child have to go to pre-school Gaelic group before going into Gaelic-medium education?**

Although this is not absolutely necessary it is advisable whenever possible. 0-3 and 3-5 Gaelic groups are available in most areas where there is Gaelic medium education.

More information is available from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Comann nam Pàrant.

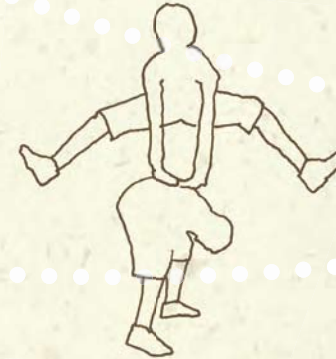






# Foghlam bun-sgoile

## Primary education



Tha Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig sabhun-sgoila' ciallachadh gubheil a h-uile sgath ionnsachaidh agus teagaisg, tarsainn cuspairean a' chlàir-oideachais air fad, a' tachairt tron Ghàidhlig, a' cleachdadh modhan bogaidh iomlan ann am Prìomh 1 agus Prìomh 2. Tha leughadh agus sgrìobhadh Beurla an uair sin gan toirt a-steach sa chumantas ann am Prìomh 3 ach 's e Gàidhlig a' chiad chànan san t-seòmar-teagaisg tron bhun-sgoil. 'S e amas a' chleachdaidh bogaidh as fheàrr dèanamh cinnteach gum fàs a' chlann fileanta an dà chuid an Gàidhlig 's am Beurla.

Tha a' mhòr-chuid de dh'fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air a libhrigeadh ann an roinnean tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig taobh a-staigh sgoiltean Beurla ach tha cuid a sgìrean aig a bheil sgoiltean Gàidhlig.

Gaelic-medium education in the primary school involves the use of the Gaelic language for all learning and teaching, across all subjects in the curriculum, using total immersion methods in P1 and P2. English reading and writing is then introduced generally from P3 but the principal language of the classroom is Gaelic throughout primary school. In the best immersion practice, the aim is to ensure children achieve equal fluency in both Gaelic and English.

In most instances Gaelic-medium education is delivered in Gaelic medium departments within English medium schools but some areas now have Gaelic-medium schools.

Tha na deagh bhuannachdan a tha ag èirigh às an dòigh-teagaisg bogaidh, aig a bheil dà-chànanas mar thoradh, air an toirt am bàrr ann an rannsachadh a rinn Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann ann an 2010 às leth Bhòrd na Gàidhlig a sheall;

*“Tha sgoilearan ann am Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, nach eil a’ cluinntinn Beurla san t-seòmar-teagaisg co-dhiù gu Prìomh 3, a’ breith air agus a’ dol seachad air sgoilearan tro mheadhan na Beurla anns a’ ghrèim a tha aca air Beurla. Ann an AS2, ged nach robh ach leth de sgoilearan tro mheadhan na Beurla air an ìre E ris an robhar dùil a ruighinn ann an leughadh agus sgrìobhadh Beurla, bha trì chairteal de sgoilearan tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air an ìre sin a ruighinn.” Agus*

*“... chan eil coileanadh nan sgoilearan ann an raointean eile den chlàr-oideachais ann am Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a rèir choltais a’ fulang idir le bhith ag ionnsachadh an cuspairean tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig (sa chumantas an dàrna cànan aca).”*

The positive benefits of the immersion approach resulting in bilingualism are highlighted in research conducted in 2010 by Edinburgh University on behalf of Bòrd na Gàidhlig finding that;

*“Pupils in Gaelic-medium education, who are not exposed to English in the classroom until at least Primary 3, catch up with and overtake English-medium pupils in their command of English. By Secondary 2, whereas only one half of English-medium pupils had reached the expected level E in English reading and writing, three quarters of Gaelic-medium pupils had done so.” And “...Gaelic-medium pupils’ attainment in other areas of the curriculum does not seem to be affected by their learning subjects through the medium of Gaelic (typically their second language).”*



## A bheil Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a' cur bacadh air adhartas na cloinne?

Tha rannsachaidhean a' sealltainn gu bheil clann ann am Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a' dèanamh a cheart cho math no nas fheàrr na an comhaoisean sa h-uile cuspair agus sin a' cur cunntas Beurla.

## Ciamar as urrainn dhomh taic a thoirt do dh'fhoghlam mo phàiste nuair nach urrainn dhomh Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn mi fhìn?

Thoiribh taic do ur pàiste le bhith gabhail ùidh na f(h)oghlam agus anns a h-uile seòrsa gnìomhachd Ghàidhlig as urrainn dhuibh – telebhisean, rèidio, air-loidhne, gnìomhachdan taobh a-muigh na sgoile agus tachartasan sòisealta. Tha cuideachd iomadh cothrom ann do phàrantan beagan Gàidhlig ionnsachadh, gu tric ann an clasaichean a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ann. Gheibhear fiosrachadh mun a h-uile clas Gàidhlig a tha rim faotainn air feadh Alba aig [www.learnghaelic.net](http://www.learnghaelic.net)

### Sheall rannsachadh a rinn Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann ann an 2010;

“Tha sgoilearan ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, nach eil a' cluinntinn Beurla san t-seòmar-teagaisg co-dhiù gu Prìomh 3, a' breith air agus a' dol seachad air sgoilearan tro mheadhan na Beurla anns a' ghrèim a tha aca air Beurla. Ann an AS2, ged nach robh ach leth de sgoilearan tro mheadhan na Beurla air an ìre E ris an robhar dùil a ruighinn ann an leughadh agus sgrìobhadh Beurla, bha trì chairteal de sgoilearan tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air an ìre sin a ruighinn.”

### Agus

“... chan eil coileanadh nan sgoilearan ann an raointean eile den chlàr-oideachais ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a rèir choltais a' fulang idir le bhith ag ionnsachadh an cuspairean tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig (sa chumantas an dàrna cànan aca).”

Tha na buannachdan foghlaim an lùib dà-chànanas aithnichte. Tha luchd-foghlaim a' gabhail ris gu bheil clann a tha dà-chànanach nas sùbailte ann a bhith a' cothachadh ris a h-uile nì a thaobh obair eanchainn. Tha e cuideachd nas fhasa do chloinn dà-chànanach an tuilleadh chànanan ionnsachadh. [www.bilingualism-matters.org.uk](http://www.bilingualism-matters.org.uk)

Tha rannsachadh le Dr Fraser Lauchlan, a' toirt dearbhadh taiceil gu bheil buannachdan eanchainn ann a bhith dà-chànanach: gu h-àraid, an suidheachadh far a bheil neach a' bruidhinn mion-chànan a bharrachd air cànan aithnichte eadar-nàiseanta.

### Bilingualism in Sardinia and Scotland: Exploring the cognitive benefits of speaking a 'minority' language.

Fraser Lauchlan, Marinella Parisi agus Roberta Fadda

## Does Gaelic-medium education hinder children's development?

Studies have shown that children in Gaelic education do as well as or better than their peers in all subjects including English.

## How can I support my child's education when I do not speak Gaelic myself?

Support your child by taking an interest in their education and in as many aspects of Gaelic activity as possible – television, radio, online, out-of-school activities and social occasions. There are also many opportunities for parents to learn some Gaelic, very often in special classes for parents. Information on all Gaelic classes available throughout Scotland is available on [www.learnghaelic.net](http://www.learnghaelic.net)

### Research conducted in 2010 by Edinburgh University found that;

“Pupils in Gaelic-medium education, who are not exposed to English in the classroom until at least Primary 3, catch up with and overtake English-medium pupils in their command of English. By Secondary 2, whereas only one half of English-medium pupils had reached the expected level E in English reading and writing, three quarters of Gaelic-medium pupils had done so.”

### And

“...Gaelic-medium pupils' attainment in other areas of the curriculum does not seem to be affected by their learning subjects through the medium of Gaelic (typically their second language).”

The educational benefits of bilingualism are well documented. It is widely accepted that children speaking two languages seem to have a greater facility for handling all aspects of the thought process. Bilingualism can also enhance a child's prospects of successfully learning other languages. [www.bilingualism-matters.org.uk](http://www.bilingualism-matters.org.uk)

Research by Dr Fraser Lauchlan, provides supportive evidence that there are clear cognitive advantages to being bilingual: in the current research, specifically, the situation where one speaks a minority language as well as an internationally recognised language.

### Bilingualism in Sardinia and Scotland: Exploring the cognitive benefits of speaking a 'minority' language.

Fraser Lauchlan, Marinella Parisi and Roberta Fadda



### **Is toigh leam a bhith a' leughadh dham phàiste aig an taigh. Ciamar as urrainn pàrantan seo a dhèanamh mura h-eil iad fileanta sa Ghàidhlig?**

Tha iomadh stòras clàraidhean fuaime a tha air an cleachdadh ann am Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig rim faotainn aig [www.gaelic4parents.com](http://www.gaelic4parents.com). Tha cuideachd clàraidhean fuaime de leabhraichean le sgeulachdan Gàidhlig rim faotainn agus feadhainn ùra gan cur riutha gu cunbhalach. Chan eil adhbhar air thalamh ann nach bu chòir dhuibh leughadh do ur cloinn sa Bheurla cuideachd.

### **Dè a' bhuidh a bhios aig Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig air Beurla mo phàiste?**

Tha clann ann am Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig air an teagasg aig an toiseach cha mhòr gu tur sa Ghàidhlig agus sa chumantas tha iad a' tòiseachadh a' leughadh agus a' sgrìobhadh Beurla ann am Prìomh 3. Bidh na sgilean a dh'ionnsaicheas clann ann an aon chànan air an cleachdadh sa chànan eile agus mar sin bidh iad buailteach adhartas luath a dhèanamh aon uair 's gun tòisich iad a' leughadh sa Bheurla.

### **Tha mo phàiste-sa fileanta sa Ghàidhlig. Carson a roghnaichinn Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig?**

Tha FTG a' daingneachadh cainnt nam fileantach agus gam misneachadh gus cumail orra Gàidhlig a chur gu feum anns gach suidheachadh. Tha e cuideachd a' toirt dhaibh comas a bhith gu h-iomlan litearra sa chànan.

### **I like to read to my child at home. How can parents do this if they are not fluent in Gaelic?**

Audio recordings of many resources used in Gaelic-medium education are available on [www.gaelic4parents.com](http://www.gaelic4parents.com). There are also audio recordings of Gaelic storybooks available with new ones added regularly. There is no reason whatsoever why you should not also read in English to your children.

### **How will Gaelic-medium education affect my child's English?**

Children in Gaelic-medium education are initially taught almost entirely in Gaelic and English reading and writing are generally introduced from P3. Children transfer skills acquired in one language to the other so tend to progress quickly once they start reading in English.

### **My child is a fluent Gaelic speaker. Why should I choose Gaelic-medium education ?**

GME reinforces the language of fluent speakers and encourages them to continue using Gaelic in all situations. It also enables them to become fully literate in the language.



## An urrainn clann le feumalachdan sònraichte no a dh'fheumas taic a bharrachd Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig fhaotainn?

'S urrainn agus bithidh. Tha poileasaidhean in-ghabhail fìor mhath aig na h-Ùghdarrasan Ionadail agus aig a bheil an aon chuideam biodh an lìbhrigeadh Gàidhlig no Beurla. Gheibhear tuilleadh comhairle bho roinn foghlaim an Ùghdarrais Ionadail agaibh mu fheumalachdan ionnsachaidh ur pàiste agus nas urrainn Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a dhèanamh dha no dhi.

## Ma dh'fheumas mo phàiste siubhal chun ionaid Ghàidhlig as fhaisge, am bi còmhail ri fhaotainn?

'S ann air bonn-stèidh sgèireil a bhios ùghdarrasan ionadail tric a' lìbhrigeadh Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig agus mar sin bidh còmhail air a chur air dòigh aca do chloinn a dh'fheumas siubhal nas fhaide air falbh na an sgoil ionadail aca. Cuiribh fios gu ur n-Ùghdarras fhèin airson fiosrachadh mionaideach mu ullachaidhean siubhal.

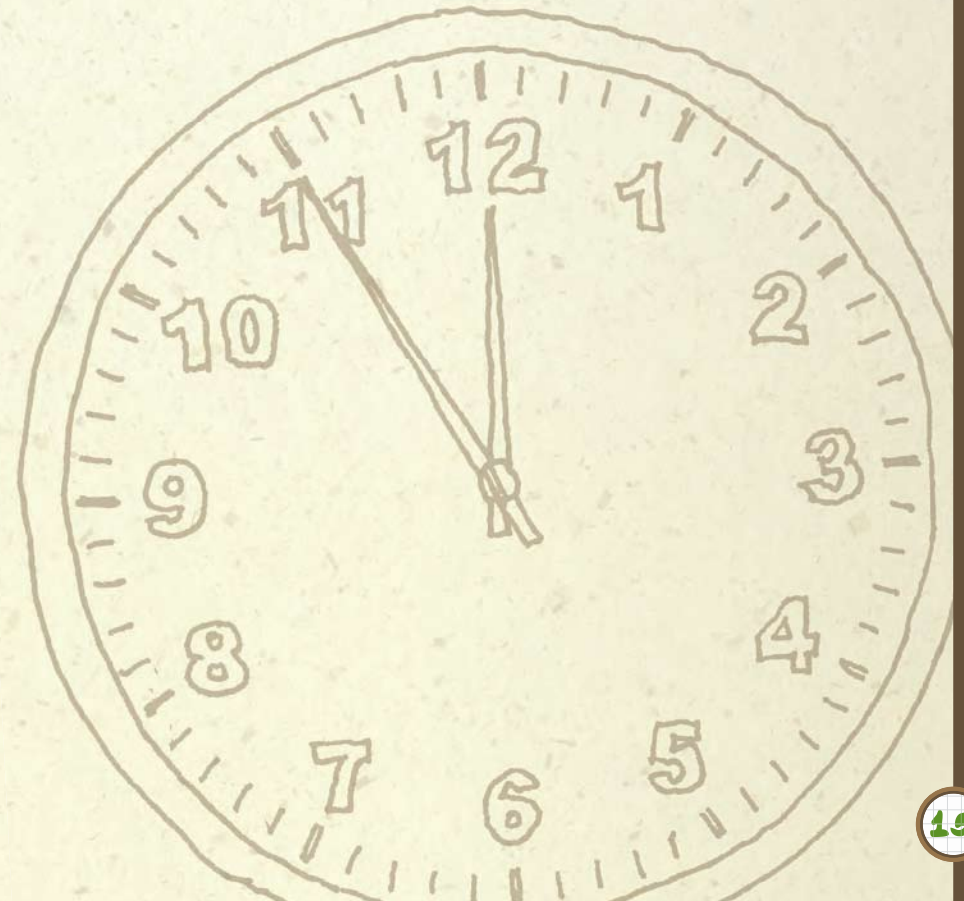


## Can children with additional support or special needs receive Gaelic-medium education?

They can and do. Local Authorities have excellent inclusion policies that apply equally to Gaelic and English provision. Further advice will be available from your Local Authority education department regarding the learning needs of your child and what Gaelic-medium education can offer.

## If my child needs to travel to access the nearest Gaelic-medium facility, will transport be provided?

Education authorities often provide Gaelic-medium education on an area basis so do have transport arrangements in place for children who require to travel further than their local school. Contact your own Authority for detailed information on travel arrangements.









# Foghlam àrd-sgoile

## Secondary education



Tha Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig san àrd-sgoil a’ dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil leantailachd anns an ionnsachadh a fhuair clann a chaidh oideachadh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig sa bhun-sgoil. Bheir seo air clann a bhith nas comasaiche, a’ faighinn eòlas air Gàidhlig mar chànan an latha an-diugh a tha cubhaidh airson foghlam àrd-sgoile a libhrigeadh.

Faodaidh sgoilearan a tha air a dhol tro fhoghlam Gàidhlig, Gàidhlig a ghabhail mar chuspair airson fileantaich san àrd-sgoil. Tha cuid a sgoiltean a’ tabhann chuspairean eile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Faodaidh sgoilearan sreath chuspairean a ghabhail, nam measg matamataig agus cuspairean sòisealta tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig gu ìre teisteanais.

### **Nach biodh e na b’ fheàrr do chloinn cànan “nas fheumaile” mar Fraingis no Gearmailtis ionnsachadh?**

Ann an Alba, air sgàth ‘s cho luath ‘s a tha na gnìomhachasan cultarach a’ fàs, tha a’ Ghàidhlig gun teagamh cho feumail mar chead-cosnadh ri Fraingis agus Gearmailtis agus a’ toirt dhut slighe dhìreach gu mòran chothroman obrach tarraingeach. Thig fàs air na cothroman sin, agus aig companaidhean agus buidhnean poblach rin dleastanasan a choileanadh mu choinneamh Achd na Gàidhlig. Bu chòir do phàrantan fios a bhith aca gun urrainn do sgoilearan cànan Eòrpach a dhèanamh cuideachd cho math ri Gàidhlig aig ìre àrd-sgoile.

Tha cothrom aig cloinn a tha a’ fuireach agus ag ionnsachadh ann an Alba 1+2 cànanan ionnsachadh bho Bun-sgoil suas gu Àrd-sgoil. Ann am foghlam tro mheadhon na Gàidhlig tha cothrom aca 2+2 cànanan ionnsachadh. Fàgaidh iad an sgoil fileanta ann an dà chànan agus le eòlas air dà chànan eile.

Gaelic-medium education in secondary ensures continuity in the learning experience of children who have been educated through the medium of Gaelic in the primary school. This enables pupils to become more competent, gaining an understanding of Gaelic as a modern language which is capable of delivering secondary school education.

Pupils who have gone through Gaelic-medium education are able to study Gaelic for fluent speakers as a subject in secondary school. Some schools also offers other subjects through the medium of Gaelic. Pupils can study a range of subjects including maths, and social subjects through the medium of Gaelic to qualification level.

### **Wouldn’t it be better for children to learn a more “useful” language like French or German?**

In Scotland, with the rapid growth of cultural industries, Gaelic is in fact as useful a passport to employment as French and German and can offer a direct line to many attractive job opportunities. These opportunities will increase as organisations and public bodies are required to meet their obligations under the Gaelic Language Act. Parents should note that pupils may also study a European language as well as Gaelic at secondary level.

Children living and learning in Scotland now have the opportunity to learn 1+2 languages from Primary school into Secondary school. In the case of Gaelic-medium education they may have the opportunity to learn 2+2 languages. They can leave school fluent in 2 languages and with some knowledge of another 2 languages.







# Taic do Phàrantan

## SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

$$2+2=?$$

Ann an siostam foghlaim sam bith, tha àite fìor chudromach aig pàrantan agus nuair a thig e gu Gàidhlig tha an dreuchd sin nas cudromaiche buileach; 's ann air sàillibh oidhirpean phàrantan a thòisich FTG ann an 1985 agus tha mar a tha cùisean air fàs na thoradh air iarrtasan bho phàrantan.

Tha uallach gu math tric air pàrantan aig nach eil Gàidhlig gun dèan iad nas urrainn dhaibh airson taic a thoirt dhan chloinn san sgoil agus gu h-àraidh le obair-dachaigh. Ged a gheibh pàrantan a-mach, gu h-àbhaisteach, nach leigeadh leas dragh a bhith orra aon uair 's gu bheil an cuid chloinne san sgoil, tha tòrr mòr cuideachaidh ri fhaotainn le obair-dachaigh ma bhios feum air.

In any education system, parents have a crucial role to play and where Gaelic is concerned this role takes on an added dimension; it was as a result of the efforts of parents that GME began in 1985 and there has been continued expansion in response to demand from parents.

Parents who are not Gaelic speakers often have concerns about their ability to support their children in school and especially with homework. Although parents usually find that once their child is in school they need not have worried as there is lots of support available if needed with homework.

Tha **www.gaelic4parents.com** a' tabhann taic beò air-loidhne gach feasgar ann an teirm na sgoile a thaobh obair-dachaigh. Lorgaidh pàrantan geamannan, sgeulachdan agus leabhraichean fuaimne a chuidicheas iad gus Gàidhlig ionnsachadh agus leughadh còmhla rim pàiste.

Tha clubaichean obair-dachaigh agus modhan taice eile do phàrantan cuideachd a-nis rim faotainn ann am barrachd sgìrean. An rud as bunaitaiche, ma tha dragh sam bith air pàrantan uair sam bith bu chòir dhaibh sin innse do thidsear am pàiste.

Faodaidh clann eòlas fhaighinn air rud ann an aon chànan agus bruidhinn mu dheidhinn ann an cànan eile, agus tha seo tric ga dhèanamh nas fhasa dhaibh cuspair a thuigsinn, mar sin, chan eil a bhith mìneachadh na obair-dachaigh aca do phàrant aig nach eil Gàidhlig na dhuilgheadas.

'S e stòras air leth prìseil a tha ann am pàrantan as urrainn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn rin cloinn. Tha e math ma gheibh a' chlann an cànan a chluinntinn aig a h-uile cothrom agus mar as trice a thachras sin, gu h-àraidh sna bliadhnaichean ro-sgoile, 's ann as luaithe a thig adhartas air na sgìlean cànan aca. Bu chòir pàrantan leigeil leis a' chloinn aca Gàidhlig a chluinntinn san dachaigh cho tric 's a ghabhas. Bu chòir buill den teaghlach 's den choimhearsnachd aig a bheil Gàidhlig am misneachadh gus Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn ris a' chloinn fad an t-siubhail.

Tha iomadh ùghdarras ionadail a-nis a' tabhann chùrsaichean Gàidhlig do phàrantan agus tha grunn chùrsaichean air-loidhne ann a-nis, nam biodh pàrantan ag iarraidh Gàidhlig ionnsachadh. Tha cuideachd barrachd is barrachd chothroman ann airson saor-làithean Gàidhlig leis an teaghlach.

Ann am mòran sgìrean tha 'Sgeama Comhairleachaidh Phàrant' agus nam biodh sibh ag iarraidh bruidhinn ri pàrant nur sgìre fhèin aig a bheil eòlas air FTG faodaidh sibh fios a chur gu Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Comann nam Pàrant a bheir fiosrachadh iomchaidh dhuibh.

**gaelic4parents.com** offers live online homework support each evening during term time. Parents will find games, stories and audio books that will help them learn Gaelic and read with their child.

Homework clubs and other parental support structures are also now more widely available. Most importantly if parents have any concerns at any time they should communicate this to their child's teacher.

Children can learn about something in one language and talk about it in another, and this often helps them understand a subject more easily, so explaining their homework to a non-Gaelic speaking parent is not a problem.

Parents who can speak Gaelic to their children are a most precious resource. It is desirable that children should hear the language at every available opportunity and the more often this happens, particularly in their pre-school years, the quicker they will develop their language skills. Parents should expose their children to Gaelic in the home as frequently as possible. Gaelic speaking members of the family and community should be encouraged to speak to them in Gaelic at all times.

Many local authorities offer Gaelic courses for parents and a number of on-line courses are now available should parents wish to learn Gaelic. There are also a growing number of opportunities for Gaelic family holidays.

Many areas now have a 'Parental Advisory Scheme' and if you would like to speak to a parent in your own area who has experience of Gaelic-medium education you can get in touch with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Comann nam Pàrant who will give you details.



## Dè cho chudromach 's a tha àite nam pàrant ann an leasachadh cànanan an cloinne?

Buinidh am pàirt as cudromaiche do na pàrantan. Bu chòir do phàrantan feuchainn ri dòigh-smaoineachaidh dhòchasach a thoirt dhan teaghlach. Fiù 's ann an teaghlachan far an deach aontachadh Gàidhlig a-mhàin a bhruidhinn, faodaidh pàrantan dòighean a dhealbh airson piseach a thoirt air briathrachas an cloinne. Aon dòigh air seo a dhèanamh, 's e bhith faighneachd cheistean ann an leithid de dhòigh 's gum misnich e a' chlann sgeulachd innse no innse mu dheidhinn rud a thachair. Dòigh eile 's e geamannan a chluich leotha far a bheil còmhraidh cudromach, agus cuimhnichibh, 's e leughadh aon de na dòighean as fheàrr air briathrachas na cloinne a dhèanamh nas beartiche.

## A' roghnachadh Gàidhlig

Faodaidh am pàirt a tha aig Gàidhlig ann am beatha na dachaigh buaidh mhòr a thoirt air a' bheachd a tha aig pàiste air Gàidhlig agus air a' chomas a th' aige/aice am feum as fheàrr a dhèanamh de dh'fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Tha e cudromach gun cluinn clann Gàidhlig taobh a-muigh na sgoile agus nach bi iad a' smaoineachadh oirre mar chànain nach bi iad a' cur gu feum ach ann an seòmair sgoile.

Tha e a-nis air aithneachadh fad is farsaing am pàirt fìor chudromach a tha aig ath-stèidheachadh na Gàidhlig mar 'chainnt mhàthaireil' air taobh a-staigh an teaghlach ann an ath-bheothachadh a' chànain. Tha a h-uile pàrant a tha a' cleachdadh Gàidhlig san dachaigh airidh air misneachadh agus taic.

## How important is the role of parents in the language development of their children?

The parent's role is of the utmost importance. Parents should endeavour to pass a positive attitude to Gaelic on to the family. Even in families where a decision has been made to speak only Gaelic, parents can devise strategies to improve their children's vocabulary. One way of doing this is by asking questions in such a way that children will be encouraged to tell a story or give an account of a particular incident. Another way is to play games in which conversation is important and remember one of the best ways of enriching children's vocabulary is by reading to them.

## Choosing Gaelic

The part which Gaelic plays in home life can have a great influence on a child's attitude to Gaelic and on his or her ability to get the best from Gaelic-medium education. It is important that the children hear Gaelic outside school and do not regard it as a language that they can only use in the classroom.

It is now widely recognised that the re-establishment of Gaelic as a 'mother tongue' used within the family will play a pivotal role in the revival of the language. All parents using Gaelic within the home deserve encouragement and support.



## A' cruthachadh saoghal Gàidhlig san Dachaigh

Ged nach urrainn a h-uile teaghlach an clann a thogail gu tur tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, faodaidh teaghlach sam bith dòigh-smaoineachaidh dhòchasach a chruthachadh dhan chànan taobh a-staigh an teaghlach aca agus gu ìre air choreigin saoghal Gàidhlig a thoirt beò san dachaigh.

### Leigibh le pàistean uiread sa ghabhas de Ghàidhlig a chluinntinn le bhith:

- a' cur phrògraman telebhisein agus rèidio gu feum
- ag èisteachd ri ceòl Gàidhlig
- a' dol gu làraichean-lìn Gàidhlig
- a' brosnachadh caraidean agus càirdean le Gàidhlig an cànan a bhruidhinn san dachaigh agaibh

### Dèanaibh Gàidhlig follaiseach san dachaigh agaibh le bhith:

- a' dèanamh feum de leabhraichean Gàidhlig
- a' cur suas postairean agus soidhnichean Gàidhlig

Às bith dè an comas a tha agaibh sa Ghàidhlig, cleachdaibh nas urrainn dhuibh den chànan ri ur pàiste bhon aois as tràithe a ghabhas. Aon uair 's gum fàs sibh cleachdte ri bhith bruidhinn ann an cànan sònraichte, tha e doirbh a dhol air ais. Air an adhbhar sin, tha e nas fhasa cleachdadh bruidhinn Gàidhlig san teaghlach a stèidheachadh le bhith a' bruidhinn ris a' chloinn ann an Gàidhlig bhon toiseach.

## Creating a Gaelic Environment in the Home

Although not every family will be able to raise their children totally through the medium of Gaelic any family can create a positive attitude to the language within their family situation and provide, to some degree a Gaelic, environment within their home.

### Let children hear as much Gaelic as possible by:

- making use of Gaelic television and radio programmes
- listening to Gaelic music
- accessing Gaelic websites
- encouraging Gaelic speaking friends and relations to speak the language in your home

### Make Gaelic visible in your home by:

- making use of Gaelic books
- displaying Gaelic posters and signage

Whatever your own ability in Gaelic make as much use of the language with your child from as early an age as possible. Once you become accustomed to speaking in a particular language it is difficult to reverse this. It is therefore easier to establish the habit of speaking Gaelic in the family by speaking to the children in Gaelic from the beginning.



## Carson a bhodraiginn ri Gàidhlig san dachaigh ma tha iad ag ionnsachadh a' chàinain san sgoil?

Tha pàirt ro chudromach aig àrainneachd na dachaigh ann am foghlam gach pàiste, a' daingneachadh obair na sgoile. Nuair a thèid Gàidhlig a chleachdadh san dachaigh, tha e toirt cothrom do chloinn iomadh seòrsa sgil càinain ionnsachadh math dh'fhaodte nach bi nam pàirt de dh'fhoghlam foirmeil.

## Tha mo phàiste a' diùltadh a Gàidhlig a chleachdadh. Nuair a bhruidhneas sinn rithe sa Ghàidhlig, freagraidh i ann am Beurla. Dè bu chòir dhuinn a dhèanamh?

Fiù 's far an e Gàidhlig cainnt na dachaigh, uaireannan cumaidh pàiste a' bruidhinn Beurla. Feumar a' chùis seo a làimhseachadh gu cùramach. Chan eil adhbhar feuchainn ri toirt air leithid a chloinn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn: cha dèan sin ach an cur na h-aghaidh buileach, ach bhiodh e na b' fheàrr iarraidh orra gu socair agus na thuirt iad a ràdh a-rithist ann an Gàidhlig. Bidh adhbhar ann gu bheil iad daingeann ann a bhith bruidhinn Beurla; 's dòcha nach eil am pàiste a' tuigsinn carson. 'S e rudan a dh'fhaodadh a bhith air a chùlaibh: ag iarraidh saorsa ma tha i fo sgèith peathar no bràthar nas sine; dol an aghaidh ceartachadh mhearachdan ro thrì na cuid Gàidhlig; nàire ma thathas a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig rithe air beulaibh a caraidean a tha bruidhinn Beurla.

Tha e soirbh pàrantan a bhith air an claidh leis an dùbhlán seo agus tionndadh gu Beurla ach bu chòir dhuibh feuchainn gun leigeil le seo tachairt. Bu chòir dhuibh cumail a' dol a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig agus fiù 's ged a fhreagras ur pàiste ann am Beurla bidh a t(h)uigse air Gàidhlig a' fàs nas fheàrr fada an t-siubhail.

## Why should we bother with Gaelic at home if they are being taught the language in school?

The home environment has a crucial role to play in every child's education, reinforcing work done in the school. Using Gaelic at home enables children to acquire many valuable aspects of language skills which may not be part of formal education.

## My child refuses to use her Gaelic. When she is spoken to in Gaelic she responds in English. How should we deal with this?

Even in Gaelic speaking homes, sometimes one child persists in speaking English. This issue has to be treated with sensitivity. There is no point in attempting to compel such children to speak Gaelic: that will only strengthen the resistance but gentle persuasion and asking them to repeat themselves in Gaelic is advisable. There will be a reason for the insistence on speaking English; the child may not understand why. Possible causes are: asserting independence as a result of being overshadowed by an older sibling; rebellion because of too frequent correction of errors in her Gaelic; embarrassment about being spoken to in Gaelic in the presence of her English speaking friends.

It is easy for parents to be worn down by this resistance and resort to English but you should try not to let it happen. You should continue speaking in Gaelic and even if your child replies in English his / her understanding of Gaelic is improving all the time.





## Pàrantan aig a bheil Gàidhlig

Ma tha Gàidhlig aig na pàrantan, 's urrainn Gàidhlig a bhith na cànan dachaigh dhuibh. Anns an dòigh seo faodaidh sibh clann a thogail aig a bheil Gàidhlig mar chiad chànan. Tha e cudromach cuideachd gur e Gàidhlig an cànan a chleachdas sibh nur measg fhèin, chionn togaidh clann cànan le bhith ag èisteachd ris na còmhraidhean mun cuairt orra. Ma ghabhas e idir dèanamh, feuch ris a' chlann a mhisneachadh gus cluiche le clann eile an aon aois aig a bheil Gàidhlig san dachaigh.

### **A rèir choltais, tha Gàidhlig mo phàiste air a dhol air ais o thòisich i san sgoil ged as ann ann am FTG a tha i. Carson tha seo a' tachairt agus dè bu chòir dhuinn a dhèanamh?**

Bidh tòrr math chloinne ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig sna ciad bhliadhnaichean dem foghlam agus bidh ur pàiste buailteach abairtean agus modhan cainnte a thogail bhon chloinn sin. 'S e rud nàdarrach a tha sin ann a bhith togail cànan. Tha clann aig a bheil Gàidhlig aig an taigh tric a' cleachdadh dà sheòrsa Gàidhlig aig an ìre sin, aon sheòrsa nuair a tha iad lem pàrantan agus seòrsa eile nuair a tha iad san sgoil a' bruidhinn ri an tidsear no an caraidean. 'S dòcha gun iarradh sibh bruidhinn ri tidsear ur pàiste gus faighinn a-mach a bheil a f(h)eumalachdan mar fhileantach sa chlas aige/aice air an sàsachadh. Bhiodh e gu math coltach gur e Beurla cainnt an raoin-cluiche agus tha e nàdarrach gum bi ur pàiste ag iarraidh Beurla a bhruidhinn cuideachd. Fàsaidh an suidheachadh nas fheàrr mar a dh'fhàsas a' chlann eile san sgoil nas fileanta agus ma chumas sibh oirbh a' cleachdadh Gàidhlig san dachaigh cha bhi ann ach ìre a bhios sealach. Tha ur pàiste fhathast a' faighinn na buannachdan a thig bho fhoghlam Gàidhlig agus gu cinnteach bhiodh an cuid Gàidhlig air a dhol bhuaithe barrachd nam biodh iad ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Beurla.

## If Parents Speak Gaelic

If parents speak Gaelic, Gaelic can become the language of your home. This way you can raise children with Gaelic as their first language. It is also important that Gaelic is the language that you use between yourselves as children will also acquire language from listening to the conversations around about them. If at all possible try to encourage children to play with other children of their own age whose home language is Gaelic.

### **My child's Gaelic seems to have deteriorated since she started school although she is in Gaelic-medium education. Why is this and what should we do?**

Many children will be learning Gaelic in the first years of their education and your child is likely to pick up expressions and habits of speech from these children. This is a natural part of the language acquisition process. Children whose home language is Gaelic often use two types of Gaelic at this stage, one type when they are with their parents and another when they are at school conversing with their teacher and peers. You may want to speak to your child's teacher to ascertain that his / her needs within the class as a fluent speaker are being met. It is quite probable that the language of the playground will be English and your child will naturally want to use English as well. The situation will improve as the other children in school become more fluent and provided that you continue to use Gaelic with your child in the home this will be a temporary phase. Your child is still benefiting from a Gaelic education and their Gaelic would certainly have deteriorated more if they were in English medium education.





**'S e Gàidhlig a-mhàin a tha sinn a' bruidhinn ris a' chloinn againn ach tha dragh oirnn nach bi grèim ceart aca air Beurla.**

Chan eil adhbhar ann dragh a bhith oirbh. Cha tèid aca air mòr-chainnt mar Beurla a sheachnadh, cànan gun teagamh sam bith a chluinneas iad air telebhisean, rèidio, aig caraidean agus sa mhòr-choimhearsnachd.

**Feumaidh mi mo chlann fhàgail an cùram neach cùram-chloinne aig nach eil Gàidhlig nuair a tha mi aig m' obair. Am bi e doirbh dhaibh sgaradh a dhèanamh eadar Gàidhlig agus Beurla?**

Tha mòran phàrantan ann an suidheachadh far nach eil roghainn aca ach an clann fhàgail an cùram chuideigin gun Ghàidhlig. Ma tha sibh cunbhalach ann a bhith a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig ri ur cloinn cha bhiodh e coltach gum biodh duilgheadas sam bith aca a' dèanamh sgaradh eadar Gàidhlig agus Beurla. Air an làimh eile, ma bhios clann fo chùram neach-labhairt Beurla airson ochd uairean san latha, bhiodh e coltach gum bi a' Bheurla aca nas adhartach na an cuid Gàidhlig agus math dh'fhaodte gum bi iad a' sìor iarraidh Beurla a bhruidhinn rim pàrantan. Tha e riatanach gun cum sibh oirbh a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig riutha agus gum misnich sibh iad a bhith freagairt sa Ghàidhlig, ach a' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil cleachdadh na Gàidhlig fhathast na nì taitneach dhaibh.

**We speak only Gaelic to our children but are worried that they will not have a good command of English.**

There is no need to be worried. They will not be able to avoid a majority language such as English which they will inevitably be exposed to through television, radio, friends and the wider community.

**I have will have to leave my children in the care of a childminder who does not speak Gaelic when I go back to work. Will they find it difficult to differentiate between Gaelic and English?**

Many parents will find themselves in a position where they have no option but to leave their children in the care of someone who does not speak Gaelic. If you are consistent about speaking Gaelic to your children they are not likely to have any difficulty differentiating between Gaelic and English. However, with children who are in the care of an English speaker for eight hours of the day it is probable that their English will be more developed than their Gaelic and they may insist on speaking English to their parents. It is essential that you persist in using Gaelic with them and encourage them to respond in Gaelic but ensure that the Gaelic language experience remains a pleasurable one.



## Nuair nach eil ann ach aon phàrant le Gàidhlig

Tha e cudromach gum bi an dà phàrant taiceil a thaobh Gàidhlig na cloinne agus an dòigh a b' fheàrr 's e gum biodh am pàrant aig a bheil Gàidhlig a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig a-mhàin ris a' chloinn agus na ghabhas de dh'ùine a chur seachad còmhla riutha. Faodaidh am pàrant aig nach eil Gàidhlig a c(h)ùl-taic a shealltainn le bhith cur an cèill gu bheil e/i taiceil mu bhith cleachdadh Gàidhlig san dachaigh, a' coimhead air prògraman telebhisein agus ag èisteachd ri Gàidhlig air an rèidio. Ma ghabhas e dèanamh, dh'fhaodadh am pàrant gun Ghàidhlig tòiseachadh ag ionnsachadh, a' leudachadh beag air bheag an uiread de Ghàidhlig 's a tha e / i a' cleachdadh le a c(h)ompanach agus a p(h)hàiste. Aon rud math 's e uairean a chomharrachadh nuair a tha a' chlann còmhla ris an dà phàrant. Dh'fhaodadh an t-àm a tha air a chur air leth airson Gàidhlig a leudachadh beag air bheag.

## When One Parent Speaks Gaelic

It is important that both parents are supportive of the children's Gaelic and ideally the Gaelic speaking parent should only speak Gaelic to the children and spend as much time as possible with them. The non-Gaelic speaking parent can show their support by showing a positive attitude to the use of Gaelic at home, watching Gaelic television programmes and listening to Gaelic radio. If possible, the parent with no Gaelic could start to learn and gradually increase the amount of Gaelic they use with their child and partner. A good idea is to set Gaelic language times when the children are with both parents. The time designated for Gaelic could be increased by degrees.

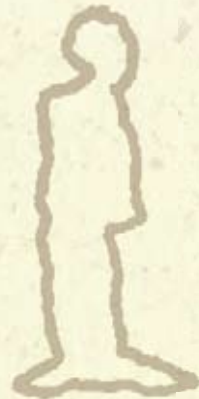


**'S urrainn dhomh Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn agus nuair a bhios clann againn bu toigh leam bruidhinn riutha sa Ghàidhlig. Ge-tà, 's e glè bheag a Ghàidhlig a th' aig mo chompanach agus tha e smaoinichadh gum fairich e gu bheil e air a ghlasadh a-mach ma bhios mi a' bruidhinn cànan ris a' chloinn nach eil e a' tuigsinn.**

Tha e cudromach gum bi còmhraidh onarach agus fosgarra agaibh fhèin 's ur companach agus 's dòcha fiù 's sgrìobhadh sìos na buannachdan agus na h-anacothroman a th' ann a bhith a' togail ur teaghlach le barrachd air aon chànan. Feuchaibh ri smaoinichadh air dè as fheàrr dhan chloinn agus math dh'fhaodte gun urrainn do ur companach na draghan a th' air a chur gu aon taobh air sàillibh dà-chànanas na cloinne. Thoir stuthan do ur companach a bheir fiosrachadh dha air na buannachdan a th' ann an dà-chànanas. 'S dòcha gun smaoinich ur companach air beagan Gàidhlig ionnsachadh a leigeadh leis co-dhiù cuid de na còmhraidhean a bhios agad le ur cloinn a thuigsinn.

**Tha mi air cur romham Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn fad an t-siubhail lem chloinn. Dè bu chòir dhomh a dhèanamh ma thadhlas cuideigin aig nach eil Gàidhlig?**

Dìreach airson gu bheil sibh a' bruidhinn ri cèiliche ann am Beurla, cha bu chòir sin stad a chur oirbh cumail a' bruidhinn ri ur cloinn ann an Gàidhlig. Bu chòir dhuibh a mhìneachadh do luchd-cèilidh cho cudromach 's a tha seo 's cha bu chòir adhbhar oilbheim a bhith aca. Cha bu chòir dhuibh an cumail gun bruidhinn ri ur cloinn ann am Beurla no an cànan sam bith eile.

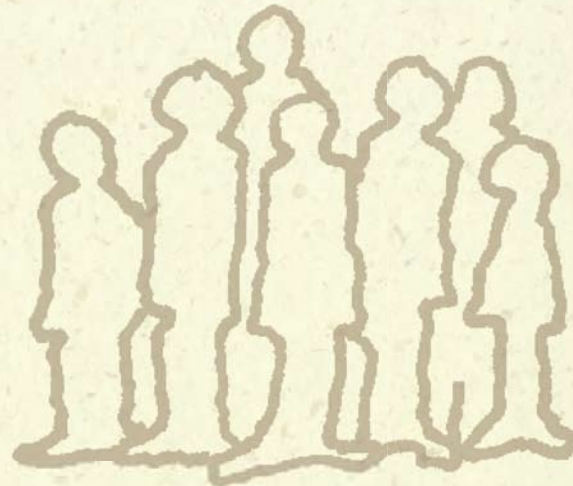


**I am a Gaelic speaker and when we have children I would like to speak to them in Gaelic. My partner however has very little Gaelic and thinks that he will feel excluded if I am speaking a language to the children that he does not understand.**

It is important that you and your partner have an open and frank discussion and possibly even write down the advantages and disadvantages of raising your family with more than one language. Try to consider what is in the best interests of the children and your partner may be able to put aside his concerns in favour of the children's bilingualism. Provide your partner with materials that will give him information on the advantages of bilingualism. Your partner might think about learning some Gaelic which would enable him to understand at least some of the conversations you will have with your children.

**I have decided to speak Gaelic all the time to my children. What should I do when a visitor arrives who does not speak Gaelic?**

The fact that you are conversing with a visitor in English should not deter you from continuing to use Gaelic with your children. You should explain to visitors how important this is and there should be no reason for them to feel offended. You should not prevent them addressing your children in English or any other language.



## Nuair nach eil Gàidhlig aig gin de na pàrantan

Chan eil e gu diofar dè an comas labhairt a th' agaibh sa Ghàidhlig, 's e an cuideachadh as fheàrr as urrainn dhuibh a thoirt do ur pàiste gum bi sibh dòchasach agus taiceil nur beachdan mu dheidhinn mar a tha iad a' cleachdadh a' chànain. Cho math ri bhith a' cruthachadh saoghal Gàidhlig mar a tha e a' moladh san earrainn gu h-àrd, 's dòcha gum bi sibh cuideachd ag iarraidh ur clann a mhisneachadh le bhith ag ionnsachadh nas urrainn dhuibh de Ghàidhlig agus ga cleachdadh còmhla riutha. Ged nach biodh sibh cho fileanta ri ur cloinn, nì e feum dhaibh ma dh'èistean sibh riutha a' leughadh agus ma sheallas sibh gu bheil ùidh agaibh ann an obair-dachaigh eile.

**Tha mo chompanach agus mi fhìn nur luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig. Bu toigh leinn gur e Gàidhlig cainnt na dachaigh, ach tha dragh oirnn nach biodh sin nàdarrach seach nach i a' Ghàidhlig ar ciad chànan agus nach eil luchd-bruidhne Gàidhlig a' fuireach faisg oirnn.**

Tha dearbhadh ann gun urrainn pàrantan a dh'ionnsaich dàrna cànan an teaghlach a thogail tro mheadhan a' chànain sin. Ma bhruidhneas pàrantan Gàidhlig rin cloinn bhon toiseach, às dèidh greis chan fhairich iad gu bheil càil mì-nàdarrach mu dheidhinn. Bidh e na chuideachadh do phàrantan a dh'ionnsaich Gàidhlig, ma bhruidhneas iad ri pàrantan eile aig a bheil clann le Gàidhlig. Tha liostaichean fhaclan agus abairtean feumail cuideachd rim faotainn. Gheibhear tuilleadh fiosrachaidh bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, Comann nam Pàrant agus roinn foghlaim an Ùghdarrais Ionadail agaibh.

## When Neither Parent Speaks Gaelic

No matter what your ability is in speaking Gaelic the best thing you can do to help your child is to have a positive and supportive attitude towards their use of the language. As well as following advice in the previous section on creating a Gaelic environment in your home, you may also want to encourage your children by learning as much Gaelic as you can and using it with them. Even if you are less fluent than your children it will benefit them if you listen to them read and show an interest in other schoolwork.

**My partner and I are both Gaelic learners. We would like to make Gaelic the language of our home, but worry that it would be unnatural to do so as Gaelic is not our first language and there are no Gaelic speakers living near us.**

Evidence shows that parents who have learned a second language can raise a family through the medium of that language. If parents speak Gaelic to the children from the beginning, they will not feel after a while that there is anything unnatural about it. Some parents who have learnt Gaelic may find it helpful to make contact with other parents who have Gaelic speaking children. Word lists and useful phrases are also available. More information is available from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comann nam Pàrant and the education department in your Local Authority.



## A' dèanamh barrachd feum de Ghàidhlig san dachaigh

Airson diofar adhbhar, cha roghnaich cuid a phàrantan Gàidhlig mar chànan na dachaigh gus am bi aon den chloinn aig aois a dhol dhan sgoil-àraich no fiù 's aois sgoile. Gu tric, cuiridh pàrantan pàiste gu FTG agus nuair a chì iad cho furasta agus a tha am pàiste a' togail Gàidhlig bidh iad math dh'fhaodte air am misneachadh gus Gàidhlig a dhèanamh na cànan na dachaigh.

Ma chaidh an ceangal eadar pàrant is pàiste an toiseach a stèidheachadh tron Bheurla, faodaidh e a bhith doirbh atharrachadh, ach, ged nach urrainn dhuibh stad gu h-obann a' bruidhinn Beurla, faodar na thathas a' bruidhinn de Ghàidhlig a mheudachadh, rud a bhios na bhuannachd anabarrach mòr do ur pàiste. Dh'fhaodadh an teaghlach co-dhùnadh gum bruidhinn iad Gàidhlig aig amannan àraidh, mar eisimpleir, aig amannan bìdh no dol a chadal. Às dèidh sin, dh'fhaodadh sin fàs beag air bheag mar a dh'fhàsas na pàrantan nas misneachaile.

Às bith dè an co-dhùnadh gun tigeir, tha e cudromach gun toir gach pàrant taic dha. Bhiodh e glic cuideachd bruidhinn mu dheidhinn na cùise leis a' chloinn ma tha iad aosta gu leòr a' chùis a thuigsinn. Às dèidh sin feumaidh an teaghlach smaoinichadh air mar shlighe air adhart a thig gu buil beag air bheag agus targaidean aontachadh a tha iad a' smaoinichadh a ghabhas coileanadh.

## Increasing the use of Gaelic in the Home

For various reasons some parents do not decide to make Gaelic the language of the home until one of the children is of an age to attend nursery or even to start school. Often parents will enrol the child in Gaelic-medium education and on seeing how effortlessly the child is acquiring Gaelic may be encouraged to consider making Gaelic the language of the home.

If the language bond between parent and child is established in English it can be difficult to change but although you cannot suddenly stop speaking English you can increase the amount of Gaelic you use which will benefit your child enormously. The family could decide that they'll try to speak Gaelic at certain times, for example, at mealtimes or bedtime. Thereafter this could increase by degrees as parents become more confident.

Whatever decision is made it is important that both parents support it. It is advisable also to discuss the matter with the children if they are old enough to understand. After that the family must regard it as a process which will be implemented by degrees and come to an arrangement about the targets which they think they could attain.

## **A bheil diofar sam bith ann eadar a' chainnt a bhios aig a' chiad leanabh san teaghlach agus an còrr den chloinn?**

Aig an àm a bhios an dàrna leanabh air a bhreith bidh an cànan a tha an teaghlach a' cleachdadh stèidhichte mar as trice agus mas àbhaist dhan leanabh as sine bhith còmhraidh ri a phàrantan ann an Gàidhlig bhiodh e coltach, ma-tà, gun dèan an còrr den teaghlach mar an ceudna. Tha a' cheart uiread de bhuaidh aig bràthair no piuthar nas sine air mar a chleachdas an dàrna leanabh cainnt agus a tha aig cleachdadh nam pàrant. Mas àbhaist dhan phàiste as sine a bhith bruidhinn Beurla le a c(h)omhaoisean bidh e gu math coltach gun iarr e/i Beurla a bhruidhinn ri bràithrean no peathraichean nas òige a th' aige/aice. Air an adhbhar sin tha e cudromach nuair a bhios leanabh às ùr san teaghlach gum misnich na pàrantan a' chlànn eile gus Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn ris an leanaban.

## **Cothroman leis a' Ghàidhlig sa choimhearsnachd**

Tha na cothroman a th' ann do dhaoine òga Gàidhlig a chleachdadh taobh a-muigh an t-seòmar-teagaisg a' sior fhàs ann an clubaichean òigridh (Sradagan), le ceòl agus drama (Fèisean) agus tro iomairtean air an cur air dòigh le buidhnean Gàidhlig, foghlam coimhearsnachd agus buidhnean saor-thoileach m.e. Urras Iain Muir, co-fharpaisean ball-coise, tachartasan còmhaidheach. Thig feabhas air sgilean cànan sgoilearan, gu h-àraidh cainnt shòisealta, agus bidh iad nas buailtiche Gàidhlig a chleachdadh seachad air an sgoil ma bhios iad a' gabhail pàirt ann an gnothaichean coimhearsnachd. Math dh'fhaodte gum bi buidhnean coimhearsnachd ionadail cuideachd a' cur ghnìomhachdan air dòigh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

## **Iomairtean Gàidhlig eile**

### **GLPS**

Tha GLPS, no Gaelic Language in the Primary School, a' tabhann toiseach tòiseachaidh sa Ghàidhlig do chloinn nach eil a' dol tro fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Tha an cùrsa seo air a libhrigeadh le tidsearan a chaidh tro phrògram oideachaidh fichead seachdain agus tha e air a bhith còrdadh ri sgoilearan. Cha toir an cùrsa sgoilearan gu fileantachd ach àrdaichidh e mothachadh agus an ùidh sa Ghàidhlig cho math ri abairtean bunaiteach a theagasg.

### **Cùrsaichean luchd-ionnsachaidh san Àrd-sgoil**

Faodar Gàidhlig mar chànan agus litreachas ionnsachadh aig dà dhiofar ìre san àrd-sgoil – 'fileantaich' (do chloinn a fhuair FTG) agus 'luchd-ionnsachaidh'. Mar a nì GLPS, àrdaichidh cùrsaichean luchd-ionnsachaidh mothachadh agus ùidh sa Ghàidhlig agus bheir e bunait do chloinn air am faod iad togail nuair a dh'fhàgas iad an sgoil.

## **Is there any difference between the language usage of the first child in the family and the rest of the children?**

By the time the second child is born the language usage of the family has usually been established and if the eldest child is accustomed to conversing with his parents in Gaelic then the rest of the family will probably do likewise. The language usage of the second child is influenced just as much by the older sibling as it is by the parents. If the eldest child is used to speaking English with his peers he will very likely want to speak English to his younger brothers and sisters. It is therefore important that when a new baby arrives in the family that parents encourage the other children to use Gaelic with the baby.

## **Gaelic language opportunities in the community**

There are a growing number of opportunities for young people to use Gaelic out with the classroom in youth clubs (Sradagan), music and drama (Fèisean) and through other initiatives organised by Gaelic organisations, voluntary organisations and community education e.g. John Muir Trust, football competitions, residential trips. Pupils' Gaelic language skills, especially social language, are enhanced and they are more likely to use Gaelic beyond school if they participate in these community activities. Local community groups may also provide activities through the medium of Gaelic.

## **Other Gaelic education initiatives**

### **GLPS**

GLPS, or Gaelic Language in the Primary School, offers an introduction to Gaelic for children not being educated through the medium of Gaelic. This course is delivered by a teacher who has undergone a twenty-week tuition programme and has proved popular with pupils. The course will not result in fluency but will raise awareness of and interest in Gaelic as well as teaching basic phrases.

### **Learners' courses in the Secondary School**

Gaelic language and literature can be studied at two different levels in the secondary school - 'fluent speakers' (studied by children educated in Gaelic-medium) and 'learners'. Learners' courses, like GLPS tuition, will raise awareness of and interest in Gaelic and provide a platform upon which children can build once they leave school.



## Às dèidh an sgoil fhàgail

Tha e cudromach gum bi an cothrom aig luchd-bruidhne òg na Gàidhlig leantainn orra le foghlam Gàidhlig nuair a dh'fhàgas iad an sgoil agus tha sreath de chùrsaichean Gàidhlig, no le ceangal ris a' Ghàidhlig, rim faotainn ann an colaistean agus oilthighean ann an Alba.

Tha Sabhal Mòr Ostaig san Eilean Sgitheanach agus Colaiste a' Chaisteil ann an Leòdhas a' libhrigeadh chùrsaichean suas gu ire ceuma gu tur tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Tha oilthighean Obar Dheathain, Dhùn Èideann agus Ghlaschu air a bhith tabhann ceum ann an Ceiltis airson iomadh bliadhna, agus a' Ghàidhlig na prìomh eileamaid sna ceumannan sin.

Faodaidh comas labhairt ann an Gàidhlig agus Beurla a bhith na bhuannachd do dhaoine òga ann an Alba nuair a bhios iad a' lorg obair. Tha an àireamh chothroman cosnaidh Gàidhlig no le ceangal Gàidhlig a' dol am meud, agus le cur an gnìomh Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005 agus le sianail Gàidhlig ùr didseatach ga chur air bhog, bu chòir dhan àireamh a th' ann de bhuidhnean poblach, companaidhean prìobhaideach agus buidhnean saor-thoileach a tha a' sireadh luchd-obrach a nì obair èifeachdach san dà chànan a bhith a' sior dhol suas.

**Gheibhear barrachd fiosrachaidh air cothroman cosnaidh Gàidhlig, no le ceangal ris a' Ghàidhlig, bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig.**

**Gheibhear barrachd fiosrachaidh air Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig le liosta dhe na sgoiltean far a bheil FTG ga libhrigeadh bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig agus Comann nam Pàrant.**

## Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Chaidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig a stèidheachadh ann an 2006 le Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005. Tha Foghlam Gàidhlig na phrìomhachas do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig agus tha e na uallach air a' Bhòrd comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan Riaghaltas na h-Alba agus eile a thaobh Foghlam Gàidhlig.  
[www.gaidhlig.org.uk](http://www.gaidhlig.org.uk)

**Tha Comann nam Pàrant**, air a mhaoineachadh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig, a' solar lionra de chòrr agus trithead buidheann ionadail a tha a' riochdachadh na rudan a tha cudromach do phàrantan aig a bheil clann a tha a' faighinn Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig bho ro-sgoil gu àrd-sgoil.

Fiù 's ged nach biodh buidheann Comann nam Pàrant san sgìre agaibh, faodaidh sibh fios a chur gu Oifigear nam Pàrant nàiseanta airson fiosrachadh no comhairle mu ghnòthach sam bith co-cheangailte ri Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig no ceistean sam bith eile mu dheidhinn mar a tha sibh fhèin no ur pàiste a' cleachdadh Gàidhlig.  
[www.parant.org.uk](http://www.parant.org.uk)

## On leaving school

It is important that young Gaelic speakers have the opportunity to continue with Gaelic education when they leave school and there are a range of Gaelic and Gaelic-related courses available at colleges and universities in Scotland.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye and Lews Castle College on Lewis provide courses to degree level taught entirely through the medium of Gaelic. A degree in Celtic has been offered by the universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow for many years, with Gaelic a key element of those degrees.

Being able to speak Gaelic and English can be an advantage for young people in Scotland when they enter the job market. The number of Gaelic and Gaelic-related career opportunities is growing, and with the passing of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and the launch of a new Gaelic digital channel, the number of public bodies, private companies and voluntary organisations seeking staff that are able to work effectively in both languages should continue to increase.

**Further information on Gaelic and Gaelic-related career opportunities is available from Bòrd na Gàidhlig.**

**Further information on Gaelic medium education including a list of schools with Gaelic medium provision is available from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Comann nam Pàrant.**

## Bòrd na Gàidhlig

The Bòrd was established in 2006 under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. Gaelic Education is a priority for Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Bòrd is responsible for advising the Scottish Ministers and others on Gaelic Education.  
[www.gaidhlig.org.uk](http://www.gaidhlig.org.uk)

**Comann nam Pàrant** funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig provides a network of more than thirty local groups, representing the interests of parents whose children are educated through the medium of Gaelic from pre-school through to secondary.

Even if there is no Comann nam Pàrant group in your area you can contact the national Parental Officer for information or advice on any aspect of Gaelic-medium education or any other issues regarding you or your child's use of Gaelic.  
[www.parant.org.uk](http://www.parant.org.uk)





# Tuilleadh leughaidh / Làraichean-lìn feumail Further reading / Useful websites

'A Parents' and Teachers' Guide to Bilingualism', Colin Baker ISBN: 978-1-84769-000-5

Gaelic-medium Education in Scotland: *choice and attainment at the primary and early secondary school stages.*  
[www.gaidhlig.org.uk](http://www.gaidhlig.org.uk)

