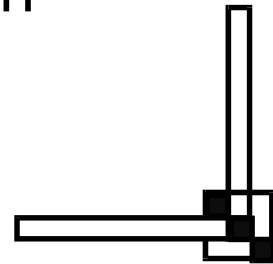


# Development of Gaelic Education



## **FOREWORD**

The development of communication and language is fundamental to the promotion of the learning process which underpins an individual's personal and social development.

Language development is even more important where more than one language exists in a community. Although Gaelic has lost much ground in Argyll and Bute over the last century, this part of Scotland is of pre-eminent strategic and symbolic importance to the past, present and future development of Gaelic.

Argyll and Bute is therefore a natural place in which to pursue the rebuilding of the Gaelic language. Argyll and Bute Council has consistently shown a desire to promote Gaelic language and culture. Indeed Gaelic development is one of the key objectives of the Council and Community Services : Education.

Gaelic has been identified as a National Priority. The recommendation by the Minister for Education that Scottish Gaelic "*should be taught as a first modern language*" rather than French presents challenges and opportunities. One response to this was the development of a highly successful Gaelic Language in the Primary School initiative. Gaelic Language in the Primary School now complements the existing Gaelic medium pre-school, primary and secondary provision which has been established for a number of years.

I endorse and commend the advice and guidance in *The Development of Gaelic Education* to all education staff as they work to raise standards of educational attainment and improve the achievement of all pupils.

## **SECTION 1**

## **THE POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Argyll and Bute Council inherited responsibility for the development of Gaelic education from Strathclyde Regional Council. The former regional council, with assistance from the Scottish Office Education Department (SOED), through the Scheme of Specific Grants for Gaelic Education, established the first Primary Gaelic Medium Unit in Scotland, in 1985, in Glasgow.

Since then, Gaelic language and culture has experienced a remarkable renaissance. At its inception, Argyll and Bute Council identified Gaelic as an authority priority. It developed primary and secondary Gaelic Medium provision on Islay and Tiree and has established new primary provision in Salen on Mull, in St. Columba's in Oban and in Sandbank in Cowal.

The Scottish Executive has identified the promotion of Gaelic as one of five education priorities which will be given particular attention over the next 3 - 5 years. Local authorities will now be required to publish improvement plans and annual progress reports. It is appropriate therefore, that Gaelic policy be reviewed to take account of new national and local circumstances.

Argyll and Bute Community Services endorses the Scottish Executive's view that:

*“Gaelic is an important part of Scotland's heritage, that Gaelic Medium education is crucial to the survival of Gaelic as a living language and that Gaelic Medium education has beyond doubt proved capable of delivering good quality education.”*

The service will continue to develop its policy and practice framework which will:

- place children's educational needs at the centre of education policy and decision making.
- consider Gaelic provision where sufficient, sustainable demand exists.
- be responsive to the needs of parents accessing Gaelic education for their children.
- make appropriate provision for Gaelic Medium children with special educational needs.
- place continuing priority on the development and training of all staff working within the Gaelic sectors.

Argyll and Bute Council endorses and commends the advice and guidance in *The Development of Gaelic Education* to all education staff as they work to raise standards of educational attainment and improve the achievement of all pupils.

## **SECTION 2**

## **THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

The Gaelic Education (Scotland) Regulations 1986 were introduced in response to the recommendations of the Montgomery Report 1984. A Scheme of Specific Grants for Gaelic Education was established to assist new developments in Gaelic education provision.

Gaelic Specific Grant is awarded in respect of expenditure to be incurred for purposes approved by the Scottish Ministers in, or in conjunction with, the teaching of the Gaelic language or the teaching of other subjects in that language.

Grant funding is paid at a level of 75% of approved projects costs. Acceptance of the grant legally obliges authorities to enhance the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED) contribution by 25% to a total of 100%.

Local authorities accessing Gaelic Specific Grant are expected to plan for the assimilation of the costs of Gaelic development in their mainstream budgets after a maximum of five years notional support.

In 1998 a new Gaelic pre-school education grant was introduced for 3 or 4-year-olds in addition to the main Scottish Office sources of pre-school funding. Only pre-school centres that are registered with The Scottish Executive Education Department for the purposes of Part II of the Education (Scotland) Act 1996 are eligible to receive Gaelic pre-school education grant.

Together, the two schemes give support to the following provision:

- Gaelic Medium education
- Gaelic as a Second Language
- Gaelic Medium secondary subject teaching
- Staff and curriculum development
- Expansion of registered Gaelic Medium pre school education
- Gaelic associated community education initiatives.

In addition to the above, the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act has created a new statutory framework which requires local authorities to plan, monitor and report on improvements in Gaelic education. Performance indicators for agreed national priorities will be set in the future.

### **SECTION 3**

### **GAELIC MEDIUM PRE SCHOOL PROVISION**

*“The vital contribution of pre-school education lies in developing and broadening the range of children’s learning experiences, to leave them confident, eager and enthusiastic learners who are looking forward to school.”*

*A Curriculum Framework for Children 3 to 5 (Scottish CCC)*

A central aim of the Government’s policy on pre-school provision is to provide a fully effective, high quality provision for the full age groups. The Gaelic pre-school education grant was introduced in 1998-99 to ensure that quality Gaelic Medium pre-school provision is available to match existing Gaelic primary provision.

Gaelic pre-school provision is available in Salen on Mull, Bowmore on Islay, St. Columba’s in Oban and Tiree. All are linked to established Gaelic Medium primary units in these areas.

Responsibility for the management of Gaelic pre-school provision is with the designated Headteacher of each associated primary school.

The service is working towards full pre-school registration for the Gaelic playgroup based within Sandbank Primary.

The service can access Gaelic pre-school education grant to bring pre-school centres up to the standard required for registration. This can include necessary improvements to accommodation and appropriate pre-school and Gaelic language training for staff.

#### ***Policy***

The service will endeavor to establish Gaelic pre-school provision where sufficient demand exists. Sufficient demand is quantified as a figure of seven or more children aged three and four with a

registered interest in Gaelic pre-school provision. Consideration may be given to establishing pre-school provision with fewer than seven but no less than four, if the authority can access additional funding to help sustain these smaller numbers.

The service will ensure that Gaelic pre-school provision in a locality is available to match existing Gaelic Medium primary provision in the same locality.

The service will assure the quality of Gaelic pre-school provision under the supervision of the Early Years Team, assisted by the Gaelic Education Development & Support Officer.

The service will meet the ongoing personal development needs of all Gaelic pre-school staff by offering both Gaelic language and pre-school training opportunities.

The service will seek to assist non-Gaelic speaking parents of Gaelic pre-school children to acquire proficiency in the language by arranging appropriate parental classes through Community Education or providing funding for parents wishing to access Argyll College language learning modules.

## **SECTION 4                    GAELIC MEDIUM PRIMARY PROVISION**

The Scottish Office Education Department Gaelic 5-14 Guidelines (1993) clearly defines the four broad aims of Gaelic learning and teaching. The document states that schools should:

- develop pupils' Gaelic language skills and knowledge so that they can fully realise their ability to understand Gaelic and use it accurately;
- support pupils' personal development through Gaelic and its literature and culture, including intellectual, emotional, aesthetic and moral development;
- develop in all pupils a range of positive attitudes towards their own and others' Gaelic development including concern for tolerance, enjoyment, co-operation and sharing;
- develop inter-relationships with the Gaelic community.

Gaelic medium primary provision is currently available in Salen Primary on Mull, Bowmore Primary on Islay, St. Columba's Primary in Oban, Tìree Primary department and Sandbank Primary in Dunoon.

Management responsibility for Gaelic Medium provision rests with the respective Headteachers of the above named establishments.

The Scottish Executive's Scheme of Specific Grants has supported the Council in the establishment of the above primary Gaelic Medium provision. It should be noted that specific grants are designed to assist **new** developments in Gaelic education provision and the

Executive's expectations are that authorities such as Argyll and Bute use their grant allocation for new initiatives.

### ***Policy***

- Community Services will endeavour to establish facilities for the delivery of primary education through the medium of Gaelic, where sufficient demand exists. Sufficient demand is quantified as a minimum of four primary one pupils with a registered interest in Gaelic medium primary education. There must also be clear evidence of the continued demand from parents for Gaelic medium education in the future to guarantee the sustainability of such provision.
- The staffing entitlement for Gaelic medium education (GME) will be in accordance with the local authority staffing formulae. Gaelic Medium provision is treated as a separate entity when calculating the staffing entitlement of an establishment. Staffing entitlement for GME will be enhanced when the pupil roll, within the often multi-composite Gaelic Medium setting, exceeds 15. This enhancement would be subject to the availability of specific grant funds and suitably qualified teaching staff.
- School management will decide how best to deploy Gaelic Medium staff in the light of the total pupil roll of the school, ensuring equal access to specialist staff for all pupils. It is important that Gaelic Medium pupils have access to whole school activities and contribute to the whole school ethos.
- In the first two years of GME an immersion programme will be established. Gaelic will be used extensively in teaching and learning in these two immersion years. The key objectives of the Immersion phase are to ensure all pupils participate fully in classroom activities; stimulate in all pupils an awareness of the

need to acquire Gaelic; encourage all pupils to speak Gaelic as soon as possible and ensure that all pupils hear as much Gaelic as possible in a range of contexts.

- English reading and language skills will be introduced once pupils have attained Level A Reading and Writing in Gàidhlig and usually by the end of primary three. Gaelic will, however, continue to be the predominant language of the classroom. Teachers will ensure a balanced approach to Gaelic and English reading homework tasks.
- From primary four to primary seven, the principal targets in Mathematics will be delivered bilingually to ensure pupils have an awareness of mathematical terminology in both languages.
- To achieve *“broadly equal competence in Gaelic and English, in all the skills, by the end of primary seven”* (Gaelic 5-14, National Guidelines, SOED) both language mediums will be used for teaching and learning with Gaelic being retained as the predominant language of the classroom.
- Gaelic Medium staff are required to confirm their professional opinions of pupil performance with the relevant SQA National Test items. Pupils achieving Level A in both Mathematics and Language must be tested in Gaelic. Beyond Level A, pupils can be tested in Gaelic or English or both. Primary seven pupils are required to be presented for language tests in both Gaelic and English.
- The service, in accordance with Argyll and Bute policy, will make appropriate transportation arrangements for any pupil living more than one mile from his/her local GME primary school. Where transport is provided, it may be necessary for pupils to walk a certain distance to a designated vehicle pick-up point. No

additional provision will be made for home journeys for immersion pupils who may have a shorter day until October in their first school session.

## **SECTION 5                    GAELIC MEDIUM SECONDARY PROVISION**

Pupils who have completed their primary education within a Gaelic Medium Unit have the option to transfer to their associated secondary school where arrangements will be made to ensure a continuum between primary and secondary Gaelic Medium provision.

Prior to the establishment of Secondary Gaelic Medium education a comprehensive liaison programme is set up between the primary GMU and the receiving secondary school. Gaelic primary staff meet with secondary colleagues on a regular basis to ensure the smooth transition of pupils from primary to secondary school. Pupils are afforded opportunities to visit the secondary school and meet their secondary teachers.

In addition to this school liaison programme, a full consultation exercise involving parents takes place during which consideration can be given to the use of Gaelic as a medium for instruction in secondary schools.

Gaelic Medium secondary provision is subject to the availability of the Specific Grant funding necessary to augment staffing and resources. The availability of suitably qualified Gaelic staff often dictates the subjects which can be offered to pupils through the medium of Gaelic.

Gaelic Medium secondary provision is currently available in Islay High School and Tiree High School. Arrangements are underway to establish similar provision in Oban and Tobermory High Schools in August 2002 and in Dunoon Grammar School in 2007/08.

***Policy***

Community Services will endeavor to establish facilities for the delivery of secondary education through the medium of Gaelic in secondary schools with associated primary Gaelic Medium provision. The establishment of secondary Gaelic Medium provision will be subject to the availability of Specific Grant funding and suitably qualified secondary staff.

The service will ensure that all pupils transferring to Gaelic Medium secondary provision will have access to Gàidhlig (Fluent Speakers) and PSE through the medium of Gaelic as part of the common course in the early years of secondary education, where staffing permits.

The service will encourage establishments to support Gaelic Medium pupils to develop their fluency, competence and confidence in Gaelic by offering selected subjects through the medium of Gaelic, where staffing permits and number of pupils are sufficient to ensure quality interaction.

The service will ensure that all pupils who have had their primary education delivered entirely through the medium of Gaelic will be presented for the SQA Gàidhlig (Fluent Speakers) examinations.

Gaelic Medium pupils with identified learning difficulties will, with the help of their teachers, parents and other professionals, be helped to decide which Gàidhlig course to follow with possible support from a scribe or reader where appropriate.

**SECTION 6                      GAE LIC LEARNERS**  
**PRIMARY / SECONDARY PROVISION**

Traditionally, Gaelic second language provision has only been available in those primary schools with sufficient staffing to facilitate a visiting Gaelic specialist teacher. The provision has been, at best, patchy and at worst, non-existent.

In the past, Specific Grant monies have assisted Community Services in the appointment of visiting teachers to deliver Gaelic as a second language in the Oban, Mid-Argyll and Cowal areas. These visiting teachers had responsibility for delivering Gaelic, in blocks of 20 - 30 minutes, to more than 400 pupils per week in each area. Securing and maintaining staff in these circumstances was problematic.

More recently, the service has instigated the Gaelic Language in the Primary School (GLPS) project. This initiative, modelled on the national Modern Languages in the Primary School (MLPS) programme, involves training class teachers to teach Gaelic lessons to pupils in their own establishments. Teachers are given a 20 day intensive language learning experience and are provided with the resources necessary to deliver a comprehensive Gaelic language and culture experience to primary pupils.

Gaelic as a second language in primary schools is an ideal way of promoting Gaelic learning and teaching and while intended to focus on languages development at P6 and P7, can be started much earlier. An extremely effective model of good practice can be found in Inveraray Primary where Gaelic is delivered from P1 to ensure a continuum between pupils' experiences in the Gaelic playgroup and their subsequent primary experiences.

Gaelic as a second language is made available to learners as part of the common course in the first two years of secondary education in Tiree, Tobermory, Islay and Oban High Schools.

Pupils are encouraged to build on their previous learning in primary schools and develop their fluency, competence and confidence in Gaelic while also acquiring greater knowledge about Gaelic language and culture. Gaelic is one of the language options for third and fourth year pupils in the four secondary schools offering Gaelic if they have made this choice in S1. Opportunities also exist for pupils to maintain their Gaelic studies in fifth and sixth year.

### ***Policy***

Community Services, subject to the availability of appropriate levels of Specific Grant funding, will endeavour to offer GLPS training wherever demand exists in the council area. Priority will be given to those areas which have traditionally supported Gaelic as a second language and have an associated secondary with established Gaelic department.

The service will encourage establishments to deliver Gaelic as a core language option to all pupils at P6 and P7. Support will be given to those establishments wishing to encourage pupil participation in Gaelic activities at an earlier stage.

The service will provide a range of quality core pupil materials to support the GLPS programme and will advise establishments of additional resources which will enhance the learning and teaching of Gaelic as a second language. Trained staff will be encouraged to further develop their personal linguistic skills by giving them access to annual Gaelic language In-service courses.

The service will continue to support GLPS through regular In-Service courses and termly visits by the Gaelic tutor to establishments with trained staff. Video conferencing facilities will also be used to maintain support to trainees.

The service will support establishments to maintain Gaelic as a core subject in the early years of secondary education. This will provide a continuum for pupils who have had access to GLPS .

Establishments will encourage pupils to continue with the study of Gaelic beyond the first two years of their secondary education by providing a language environment which stimulates their imagination and their enjoyment of Gaelic language studies.

Establishments, in collaboration with Community Services and other Gaelic agencies, should make pupils learning Gaelic, aware of the economic and academic benefits of bilingualism generally, and of the specific job opportunities for Gaelic speakers in a growing variety of sectors.

## **SECTION 7                    MONITORING EFFECTIVENESS**

Gaelic Medium pre school, primary, secondary and Gaelic Learners provision is subject to the same scrutiny by HM Inspectorate as any other mainstream education provision.

School management teams have responsibility for the day to day monitoring of the effectiveness of all Gaelic provision within their establishments or in the case of pre-school provision, associated Gaelic provision. The ways in which primary and secondary establishments assess their pupils' progress in Gaelic Medium (GME) and Learners (L2) education is consistent with national guidelines. A comprehensive menu of attainment targets for both GME and L2 are clearly set out in the 5-14 National Guidelines.

The authority focus is on raising achievement and improving the quality of Gaelic learning and teaching.

Key performance indicators for monitoring effectiveness and progress are :-

- the increasing number of pupils accessing Gaelic Medium (GME) pre-school, primary and secondary provision and Learners (L2) education;
- an increasing interest in, and awareness of, GME and a greater demand for GLPS and L2 provision;
- an increasing number of pupils continuing the study of Gaelic / Gàidhlig beyond S2 and their achievement of quality grades in SQA examinations;

- the success of GME pupils in achieving broadly equal competence in both Gaelic and English by the end of P7;
- an increased awareness by L2 pupils, of the present day Gaelic cultural background and their ability to communicate effectively in Gaelic;
- parental satisfaction with their child's progress and their endorsement of education service and establishment policies and developments;
- the commitment of Gaelic staff to provide balanced, progressive and coherent programmes of study for GME and L2 pupils;
- the contribution of Gaelic staff to the development of a range of quality resources and school-devised programmes of study;
- the commitment of Gaelic staff to create positive language learning environments and adopt a range of teaching styles to stimulate pupils and raise achievement;
- the satisfaction of the establishment management teams and Community Services with the quality of teaching and learning in the primary and secondary GMUs and L2 departments.

### ***Policy***

Establishments are required to formulate a Gaelic language policy and where appropriate, a Gaelic Medium subject policy, in accordance with the services' Gaelic Policy and national guidance contained within 5-14 National Guidelines and Higher Still Guidance.

Establishments are required to ensure that Gaelic staff formulate detailed forward plans and programmes of study which relate to national 5-14 Guidelines and make this paperwork available for scrutiny by the service as and when required.

The service will review each establishment's Gaelic policies and offer appropriate advice and support.

The service will review the implementation of all Gaelic policies and offer advice as required.

The service will assess the effectiveness of Gaelic policies and promote developments to implement and improve practice.

The service, through Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, will ensure that teaching materials are available to support Gaelic Medium and L2 education.

The service will ensure that all Gaelic staff have access to In-service and staff development opportunities appropriate to their needs.

Argyll and Bute Community Services is committed to providing a progressive education for all children and young persons in the council area, appropriate to their age, abilities and aptitudes which is provided in a setting where students are valued and safe.

The services' policy *Supporting Effective Learning* reflects the Scottish Executive Education Department's framework of guidance on provision for children and young persons with special educational needs. This framework is detailed in the following documents;

- *Effective Provision for Special Educational Needs (SOEID, 1994)*
- *Children and Young Persons with Special Educational Needs: Assessment and Recording (Circular 4/96, SOEID, 1996)*
- *A Parent's Guide to Special Educational Needs (SOEID, 1999)*
- *Professional Practice in Meeting Special Educational needs (SOEID, 1998)*
- *Disability Discrimination Act (SOEID, 1995)*
- *Standards in Scottish Schools Act (SEED, 2000)*

The *Education (Scotland) Act 1980* provides the legal framework of school education in Scotland. It contains the statement of the main duties of local authorities and parents in relation to the education of children, including assessment of, and provision for, children with special educational needs.

The Act's definition of special educational needs is:

*“Children and young persons have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for provision for special educational needs to be made for them.”*

As a rule of thumb, it should be assumed that children or young persons have a learning difficulty if additional arrangements need to be made to enable them properly to access the curriculum. (Circular 4.96)

It is important that children experiencing learning difficulties in Gaelic Medium Education (GME) are identified at an early stage and intervention strategies appropriate to the needs of the child are implemented at the earliest opportunity.

Learning difficulties of a general nature are likely to be identified by pre-school staff. Difficulties experienced by the child in any or all curricular areas will be noted in the child's Pre-School Profile and Pre-School Transition Record. The Transition Record provides school staff with relevant information to ensure continuity and progression from the pre-school to primary stages of education. It also ensures that any support for learning provided at the pre-school unit is continued in the primary school.

Children with significant special educational needs are likely to be identified at the pre-school stage. A Pre-School Assessment Team (PRESCAT) meeting will be convened to discuss the child's needs and to make recommendations for support.

The educational psychologist has the lead role in PRESCAT meetings and will ensure that the child's parents / carers and representatives from all relevant agencies are invited to attend the

meeting. Reports from PRESCAT meetings provide useful information to pre-school and school staff for the development of early intervention strategies to support the individual child.

Gaelic Medium pupils experiencing difficulties cannot be formally assessed in Gaelic as no standard screening tests exist for Gaelic education. However, as English is likely to be the home language of all, or most, Gaelic Medium pupils, educational psychologists will conduct their tests in English with the support of the pupil's Gaelic teacher.

A child with special educational needs (SEN) may have a Record of Needs (RON) opened on his or her behalf from the age of 2 years. The RON will provide staff with details of the child's needs and recommendations for meeting those needs.

### ***Policy***

Gaelic Medium establishments are required to make appropriate arrangements to meet the learning needs of all pupils. (See EPSEN)

Gaelic Medium establishments are required to have structured assessment and monitoring procedures in place.

Gaelic Medium establishments are required to access the support of the Education Development & Support Officer (Gaelic), learning support staff and, where appropriate, Psychological Services to assist with the assessment process.

Where a specific need is identified, the Gaelic teacher, in consultation with their Network Support Team member will design an appropriate support programme for the child with difficulties. In the first instance, the additional adult support will be from within existing staffing arrangements ie. Gaelic classroom assistant.

The service, subject to availability of human resources, will endeavour to secure additional specialist support from the Area Network Support Team, if required.

### **SECTION 9            STAFF DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SERVICE**

The Education Development and Support Unit's staff development catalogue offers a comprehensive range of courses specifically for Gaelic Pre-School, Primary and Secondary establishments and those schools involved in the GLPS initiative.

These courses are delivered through Gaelic by the Education Development & Support Officer or where appropriate, a specialist from the Gaelic training network. To take account of the specific needs of the Gaelic staff and the logistical difficulties associated with gathering highly specialised staff together, In-Service courses have been designed to be delivered in a variety of different forms including national courses, centrally held authority courses and locally based training days in locations throughout the authority.

In addition to the Gaelic courses featured in the In-service calendar, Scottish Executive funding enables primary and secondary staff to access specialist language training from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

More recently, Community Services has collaborated with Argyll College to provide specialised immersion language training for experienced primary teachers on Mull in a bid to address the acute shortage of Gaelic teachers. If successful, it is hoped to repeat this initiative in other areas affected by staff shortages.

The Education Development and Support Unit produces a staff development catalogue annually which covers the Pre-School Curriculum Framework, the Early Intervention Initiative, the 5-14 Development Programme and the Higher Still Initiative.

There is also provision for generic and cross curricular aspects covering Information Communications Technology, Special Educational Needs, Child Protection and Education / Industry Links.

The planning cycle which informs the contents of the In-service calendar takes account of the following:

National Priorities

Argyll and Bute Education Service Plan

The School Development Planning Process

The Needs Analysis Process

### ***Policy***

The service will maintain its commitment to the development of Gaelic education by offering a comprehensive range of Gaelic In-service courses through the annual staff development catalogue.

The service will maintain close inter-authority collaborative links with other Gaelic providing local authorities in order to coordinate joint local and national Inset provision.

The service will maintain close links with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and Argyll College and, subject to availability of funding, will provide appropriate language training opportunities for staff through these two establishments.

## **SECTION 10**

## **LINKS WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

Community Services maintains close links with a variety of national Gaelic agencies who are involved in similar development work in Gaelic education. This model of partnership working is essential if duplication of effort is to be avoided and to make best use of limited human and financial resources.

### **STÒRLANN NÀISEANTA NA GÀIDHLIG**

Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig was established by the Scottish Executive in July 1999 to provide a service to all sectors of Gaelic education, and in particular, to co-ordinate the production and distribution of new Gaelic resources to schools.

Stòrlann is currently funded in two ways:

- Core funding from the Scottish Executive for salaries and running costs of the Stòrlann.
- Project funding from the Scheme of Specific Grants for Gaelic, devolved by Local Authorities, to pay for the production of new resources.

The Scheme of Specific Grants for Gaelic is designed to assist new developments in Gaelic education provision. The Scottish Executive attaches priority to Local Authorities' use of specific grant to support the teaching of Gaelic through the production of a range of teaching materials.

In addition to delivering the programme of inter-authority projects, the Stòrlann is actively developing links with Gaelic agencies in Scotland and other Celtic countries, with a view to accessing European funding for joint projects.

### **COMUNN NA GÀIDHLIG (CNAG)**

Comunn na Gàidhlig is Scotland's main Gaelic language development agency with specific emphasis on education, youth and community development. Comunn na Gàidhlig receives central and local government funding to progress linguistic and cultural developments.

Comunn na Gàidhlig is a company with charitable status and a management board which includes representatives from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Local Authorities and other Gaelic development agencies.

Comunn na Gàidhlig's Education Officer works closely with the Education Development and Support Officer (Gaelic) to take forward local developments, sourcing suitable Gaelic staff, encouraging Gaelic L2 provision and supporting parents of Gaelic pupils.

Comunn na Gàidhlig is currently leading the campaign for legislation to give Gaelic secure status.

## **COMUNN NAM PARANT (CNP)**

Comunn nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) is a national Gaelic parental support organisation. Most Gaelic Medium provision in Scotland is supported by a local Comunn nam Pàrant group and these local groups are represented on the management committee of Comunn nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta).

The main aim of Comunn nam Pàrant Nàiseanta is:

- to promote and support the establishment and maintenance of education through the medium of the Gaelic language.

Local Comunn nam Pàrant groups promote the concept of Gaelic Medium education through liaison with their educational establishments, local education service and other national Gaelic agencies.

These constituted local CNP groups are required to represent the views of their parent bodies and provide support to parents who choose Gaelic education for their children. In addition, local CNP groups are encouraged to provide extra-curricular recreational opportunities through Gaelic for children attending Gaelic Medium provision in their areas.

Membership of CNP is open to all parents who have children attending any level of Gaelic Medium provision.

### **MANAGEMENT REVIEW GROUP (MRG)**

The Management Review Group (MRG) consists of representatives, normally at Directorate level, from Scottish local authorities participating in the Scheme of Specific Grants for Gaelic Education.

The principal remit of the group is to provide strategic support to local authorities offering Gaelic Medium education and those involved in the promotion of Gaelic language and culture.

MRG also has a strategic management overview of the package of inter-authority Gaelic educational materials projects which are produced annually by Stòrlann Nàisanta na Gàidhlig.

### **INTER AUTHORITY STANDING GROUP FOR GAELIC (IASG)**

The Inter Authority Standing Group for Gaelic (IASG) was established in 1986 to support the development of Gaelic Medium education. IASG provides a forum for the development of inter-authority strategies for Gaelic and the exchange of information on examples of good practice.

Membership of IASG consists of elected members from all the Gaelic participating local authorities in Scotland. This political focus at member level provides a vital impetus in the progression of Gaelic education and the development of national policy statements.

Teacher supply has now been identified by IASG as a major issue for consideration and discussion with relevant agencies.

## ***Policy***

Community Services will continue to maintain close links with national Gaelic development agencies who assist in the promotion and development of Gaelic language and culture.

The service will continue to maintain support to parents through the Comunn nam Pàrant networks and will work in partnership with parents to offer quality Gaelic provision for their children.

**This policy will be reviewed in 2007/08**