

Quality Education Open to All



Gaelic Medium Education is a free, Council run education option, open to all in Perth and Kinross.

Children rapidly achieve bilingualism. This is just as true if the first contact with Gaelic is at early Primary as it is for children from Gaelic speaking families.



Along with this comes an enviable world of cultural experience, and a strong, supportive community. Gaelic is so much more than a language.

Bilingual children generally score highly across the curriculum, as consistently shown by studies worldwide. Nationally, Gaelic Medium students at S4 scored 23% above the national average in 2007, putting them among the highest achieving groups in the country. (Scottish Government statistics)



Further Information

For further information about Gaelic provision in Perth and Kinross please contact:

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Gaelic Medium Education



The best in education, bilingualism and cultural confidence...

Available to your child - for life



Education & Children's Services

Gaelic Medium Education

...in Scotland

Since starting in the Central Belt in the 1980's Gaelic Medium Education has become widely available over most of Scotland and now involves over 3,000 children, mostly from non Gaelic speaking families.

...in Perth and Kinross

Perth and Kinross Gaelic Medium Unit was opened at Goodlyburn Primary School in 1999. Although educated through Gaelic the children join the rest of the school for assemblies, school trips, extra-curricular activities and general school events.

By the end of Primary 7 children educated through the medium of Gaelic will have covered the whole curriculum and also be fluent in Gaelic. There is a phased approach to the language. For the first 3 years, the total immersion phase, the whole curriculum is taught through the medium of Gaelic with an emphasis on oral attainment. By the end of this period, when reading and language skills are well established, English work is undertaken. By Primary 7, there is a balanced approach to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to reach equal competence in both languages.

Reasons for Choosing Gaelic Medium Education



Parents want children to be part of their own language heritage.



Some parents who have only one language want their child to be bilingual.



Knowledge of Gaelic will give children access to a rich cultural heritage.



It's widely recognised that bilingualism confers educational and intellectual advantages.



Learning of a language is facilitated by the learning of a second.



An increasing number of jobs now regard an ability to speak Gaelic as an advantage.



Gaelic Medium Education is a natural way to learn the language; a great opportunity.

Bilingualism

A Report published in June 2000 on behalf of The Scottish Executive stated the following:

"Pupils receiving Gaelic Medium primary education, whether or not Gaelic was the language of the home, were not being disadvantaged in comparison with children educated through English. In many, though not all instances, they out-performed English Medium pupils and in addition gained the advantage of having become proficient in two languages."

Professor Richard Johnstone, University of Stirling

The educational benefits of bilingualism are well documented. It is widely accepted that children speaking two languages 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.

"Research has shown that bilingualism is beneficial for children's development and their future. Children exposed to different languages become more aware of different cultures, other people and other points of view. But they also tend to be better than monolinguals at 'multitasking' and focusing attention, they are often more precocious readers, and generally find it easier to learn other languages. Bilingualism gives children much more than two languages!"

*Professor Antonella Sorace
Developmental Linguistics
University of Edinburgh
Director, Bilingualism Matters*

The best evidence we have for the success of Gaelic Medium Education is its rapid growth in response to parental demand. Parents want it because they see it works. This year over 3,000 children are in Gaelic Medium Education.