



# Briefing on Gaelic Education

January  
2015



# 1. Strategic Objective: Build a world-class curriculum for all learners in Scotland

## 1.1 Support for the senior phase

We are currently writing a learning resource for Advanced Higher Gàidhlig and Gaelic (Learners). National 5 Modern Studies Democracy is being translated. Please visit [Glow](#) for previously published support materials: National 3, 4, 5 and Higher Gàidhlig, Gaelic (Learners), and Gaelic Medium mathematics, Lifeskills mathematics, geography, history, modern studies. [E-stòras](#) also has useful resources for Gaelic Medium Education.

Schools and education authorities are invited to advise Education Scotland of the subjects that they are offering in the senior phase through the medium of Gaelic. Based on responses we will receive, we will translate learning materials that Education Scotland will be commissioning. Education Scotland acknowledges the co-operation of education authorities in sharing materials that they themselves have produced for the new qualifications and are made available on our website.

## 1.2 National Qualifications: [Your feedback on National 4 and 5 materials](#)

Education Scotland, in association with ADES, has published web-based support materials for all courses from National 3 through to Higher. Practitioners of Gaelic Education are invited to give their views on resources by completing a [short e-survey](#). This will assist Education Scotland in identifying priority materials for update and enhancement.

## 1.3 [Education Scotland showcases schools on the Journey to Excellence](#)

Education Scotland has published new case study films highlighting examples of good practice in creativity, health and wellbeing, and religious and moral education from establishments in Scotland. The films, available on the [Journey to Excellence website](#), are helping schools to learn from innovative practice.

[1.4 Evaluating and Improving our Curriculum – Primary](#) is a resource to help primary schools evaluate and develop different aspects of their curriculum. This resource draws together key aspects of advice related to Curriculum for Excellence and self-evaluation available on the Education Scotland website. Presentations and seminar materials from leadership conferences are now available on the [Education Scotland website](#).

[1.5 Evaluating and improving our curriculum S1-S3](#) provides a clear and concise 'toolkit' to help secondary schools evaluate their curriculum across the Broad General Education from S1-S3. It draws together key aspects of advice related to Curriculum for Excellence and self-evaluation available on the Education Scotland website. We have provided resources to support schools in areas for improvement identified from inspections and other engagements with secondary school staff, including a [series of conferences to support leadership of the Senior Phase](#)

## **2. Strategic Objective: Promote high-quality professional learning and leadership amongst education practitioners**

### **2.1 Gaelic Education Award at the Scottish Education Awards 2015**

Nominations are now invited for the Scottish Education Awards to recognise the achievements of schools and individuals who dedicate their lives to education and delivering opportunities for every child and young person to succeed in life. There are 17 award categories with new awards for sustainability, languages and partnerships. These include [Gaelic Education Award / Duais Foghlam Gàidhlig](#) which recognises establishments who are providing opportunities for children and young people to develop fluency in the Gaelic language. The [Making Languages Come Alive \(Primary\)](#) award recognises establishments who are working effectively to implement the 1+2 policy for language learning. For other awards, please visit our [website](#). The Daily Record organise the Scottish Education Awards, with Bòrd na Gàidhlig sponsoring the Gaelic Education Award.

### **2.2 Leadership Award for Teachers of Gaelic Medium Education**

Social Enterprise Academy and Education Scotland are working in partnership to make available a leadership award for those in Gaelic Medium Education. The award will be delivered in two sessions, the first of which took place in December. Participants showed a real enthusiasm and commitment to this professional learning. Social Enterprise Academy and Education Scotland would like to acknowledge the contributions from Aileen MacSween, Headteacher of Sir E Scott, Harris and Fred Wildridge, Headteacher of the Year in the Scottish Education Awards, 2014. We would also like to thank Columba 1400 for the use of their premises on the Isle of Skye.

### **2.3 CLPL audit**

As part of the National Gaelic Education Strategy we are currently compiling an audit to help ascertain gaps in professional learning for Gaelic Education. We look forward to receiving your views to help shape our contributions to Glow and other events organised by partners.

### **2.4 Numeracy Time**

SSLN allows exploration of children and young people's performance across the numeracy organisers. This professional resource aims to share with practitioners, children's and young people's performance in time. It provides practitioners with more detail on children's and young people's strengths and areas for improvement in numeracy identified within the in-depth analysis of the SSLN numeracy survey data. For each area of level covered, survey-type questions are provided for illustrative purposes. This analysis provides all practitioners with an opportunity to reflect on, and explore planning for effective learning and teaching.

### **2.5 Mentoring Matters**

Education Scotland has published more material on the Mentoring Matters online resource. The materials have been produced in response to recommendation 39 from the report, Teaching Scotland's Future (TSF), "all teachers should see themselves as teacher educators and be trained in mentoring". Visit the Education Scotland website to view the [new resources](#).

### **2.6 Scottish Learning Festival 2014**

Key presentations are now available on our website.

### 3. Strategic Objective: Provide independent evaluation of education provision

#### 3.1 Inspection Advice Note 2014-15 – accompanying information for staff working in early learning and childcare settings

This document is provided to support the delivery of the early level curriculum intending to support staff with curriculum planning and delivery. It is an accompaniment to help further illustrate the result of increased expectations in previous years and the current updated illustrations for 5.1 and 5.9.

### 4. Strategic Objective: Influence national policy through evidence-based advice

#### 4.1 National Guidance on Gaelic Education

We have now completed a collation of our findings for the National Guidance on Gaelic Education. From this Education Scotland will publish an **Advice Note on Gaelic Education**. The document will provide advice for practitioners and local authorities on best practice in all aspects of Gaelic Education, and will also inform inspection. The Advice Note draws on findings from inspection of Gaelic Education, and Education Scotland's other engagements with practitioners of Gaelic Education, local authorities and key organisations. Education Scotland's work on Gaelic Education is also contributing to current discussions on national policy, and in particular the Gaelic Education provisions of the forthcoming Education Bill. Once the Bill is passed, Education Scotland's work will inform the development of statutory guidance to be issued under the new Education Act.

#### 4.2 Curriculum for Excellence

Visit our website for a [concise overview](#) of the work Education Scotland is undertaking in the primary and secondary school sectors, including in curricular areas, from April 2014 to June 2015.

### 5. Previous publications to note

#### 5.1 Support for national policy through evidence-based advice

- Education Scotland advice on the role of Gaelic Education 3-18 in 'Language Learning in Scotland: A 1 + 2 Approach'. [Role of Gaelic Education in a 1+2 Approach](#).
- Curriculum for Excellence briefing paper on **Learning about Scotland** which includes information on the role of Scotland's languages in Learning about Scotland.
- **Aspiring Teachers**, a website for those considering a career in teaching.

#### 5.2 Support for the curriculum: broad general education

- **Available on GLOW:** <http://bit.ly/19FVm1T> Gaelic Stories with Catriona Lexy Campbell and Norman Campbell suitable for primary 4-7.

- **[SSLN: Literacy](#)** A professional learning resource to promote and inform professional reflection, dialogue and debate about writing and how to improve it.
- **Commonwealth Games** a learning resource pack for Gaelic Medium Education.
- Learning and teaching ideas to develop children and young people's understanding of **Scotland's placenames covering** early-fourth level outcomes.
- **[John Muir Education Pack](#)** encourages structured learning in the outdoors.

### 5.3 Support for the curriculum: senior phase

- National 3, 4, 5 and Higher Gàidhlig
- National 3, 4, 5, Higher Gaelic (Learners)
- National 4, 5 GM mathematics
- National 3, 4, 5 GM Lifeskills mathematics
- National 3, 4, 5 and Higher GM geography
- National 3, 4, 5 and Higher history
- National 3, 4, 5 and Higher GM modern studies.
- **[Education Scotland: Professional Focus Papers](#)** for Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig as well as other subjects.

### 5.4 Support for the curriculum: assessing progress and achievement

- **Making Good Assessment Decisions 3-18 – Gaelic Version** Wall Poster  
[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESWallPoster12Feb\\_tcm4-732731.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESWallPoster12Feb_tcm4-732731.pdf)
- **Desk Poster** - [http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESDeskPoster13Feb\\_tcm4-732736.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESDeskPoster13Feb_tcm4-732736.pdf)
- **NAR Flowchart – Gaelic Version.**
- **National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS)** summaries of qualifications for Gaelic (Learners) and Gàidhlig.
- **Assessing progress and achievement professional learning resources:** Gàidhlig and Literacy and Gaelic (Learners) early to third curricular levels.
- **Quality Assurance and Moderation – Professional Learning Resource** -  
<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/q/qamplr/introduction.asp>
- **Route Maps through Assessment** for National 4, 5 and Higher.  
<http://gaidhlig.educationscotland.gov.uk/stuthantaic/routemaps.asp>

### 5.5 Support for high-quality professional learning and leadership amongst education practitioners

- Seminars broadcast live from SLF are all recorded and available on Glow TV to Watch Again.
- **[Professional Review and Development](#)** This guidance is structured around key features of effective PRD processes.
- **[Mentoring Matters](#)** is an online tool to support and develop mentoring skills for teachers at every stage of their career.

## 6. From other organisations

**6.1 Into Film** have partnered with the Stòrlann and consulted Education Scotland, as well as a number of Gaelic teachers, to look at Seachd: The Inaccessible Pinnacle (Property of Young Films Ltd © 2007. All rights reserved.) This new resource is aimed at Primary (second level: P4-7) and Secondary (third and fourth levels: S1-4) and is focused across different themes. In primary, these include storytelling, The Clearances and myths and legend. At secondary, themes include exploring the world of Seachd; identity through film; relationships and wellbeing. The resource includes teachers' notes, interactive PowerPoint presentations featuring clips from the film and supporting worksheets, in both Gaelic and English. The Secondary resource can also be used to prepare learners for using Seachd as a text in national assessment as they go into Senior phase.

**6.2 Comann Luchd-Teagaisg Àrd-Sgoiltean (CLAS); [www.facebook.com/tidsearan](http://www.facebook.com/tidsearan); <http://vimeo.com/85431926>**

The blog for the Association of Teachers of Gaelic has useful information relating to Gaelic Education; sharing of learning resources and minutes of CLAS meetings.

### **6.3 Historic Scotland**

**Historic Scotland's** Gaelic Education Resources contain a variety of publications and videos which are useful for Gaelic Medium Education.

### **6.4 SCEL: [Developing leadership capacities](#)**

SCEL recently commissioned Dr Joan Mowat (University of Strathclyde) to write six 'thought pieces' on the development of leadership capacities. The texts include Developing Leadership for Tomorrow's Education, The Changing Paradigms of Leadership and the Next Steps for Leadership Development in Scotland.

### **6.5 British Council**

The British Council primary languages starter pack contains materials to support teaching of languages in primary schools. [Read More...](#)

### **6.6 South Lanarkshire Council [A-Z of Attachment and Resilience](#)**

South Lanarkshire Council, Psychological Service, have kindly given permission for their "a-z of attachment and resilience" publication to be shared on the early years' section of the Education Scotland website.

### **6.7 E-stòras Comhairle nan Eilean Siar**

Now available from [E-storas](#) is a series of digital clips in which people describe a range of career options available to those who are fluent in Gaelic

Coming soon:

- Digital clips of readings from the Old Testament
- Information on Norse and Gaelic place names in the Western Isles

- More digital clips from the series, Seall Seo.

### 6.8 A new book club for Gaelic Medium Education

A new book club, *Cuilean Cràicte*, is being established to support children and young people in Gaelic Medium Education (GME). It will be run by a group of volunteers which includes professional publishers, translators and parents of those in GME. The book club will make available each month a Gaelic chapter book. This will feature hot off the press translations of books by popular authors such as Terry Deary and Frank Cottrell Boyce. The benefits to children and young people include

- fostering an interest in reading
- encouraging independence in reading
- supporting skills in literacy and Gaelic
- helping to improve vocabulary
- helping to increase fluency in Gaelic.

For additional information, please [click here](#).

#### PLEASE NOTE:

This information service aims to provide a quick round-up of news items relating to Gaelic Education from selected sources. It does not claim to be comprehensive. The views expressed in the content are the views of the identified sources and not those of Education Scotland.

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