

Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig

Gaelic Medium Education

Arguably, the decision about what school your child attends is one of the most important decisions you will make for them. To help with that decision, here are some details about our school.

Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Bhaile a' Ghobhainn.

Our school is different from other schools in Glasgow as we teach through the medium of the Gaelic language. There is no English spoken or taught from P1 – to the latter stages of P3, when English language skills in reading and writing are introduced. Teachers use a range of strategies to develop the Gaelic language including songs, rhyme, repetition, pictures, role play etc. Some of the pupils who start with us on P1 have had experience of a Gaelic medium nursery class and have some understanding and ability to use Gaelic orally. We also have pupils who did not attend a Gaelic Nursery due to work patterns or distance or other reasons. They will obviously not be at the same language level and will have to “catch-up” with the other pupils in their class.

If your child has any delay in his or her “mother tongue”, which for the majority of our pupils is English, there **could** be difficulties in learning Gaelic. We are an inclusive school and have children from many backgrounds, some with additional support needs, but parents should consider the long term commitments and whether learning a second language will be another hurdle for their child. Our class sizes are the same as other primary schools and we cover the same subjects e.g. Health & Wellbeing, Social Studies, Science, PE, Maths, Expressive Arts etc. We do not have additional staff and the same policies as mainstream schools apply to us. Active participation by parents in the school life is something that is encouraged and promoted.

Opportunities to learn.

Learning a second language is not easy. We expect our parents to learn Gaelic themselves in order to help support pupils in their learning with homework etc. There are free classes throughout the city and also during the evening at various locations throughout the city. A “Family Learning” group meet at the Glasgow Gaelic School on a Saturday morning. This group provides support for parents, language classes, a youth club and a crèche facility. If your child does not have any Gaelic and you are unable to send him/her to a Gaelic nursery before they come to the school, the expectation would be that you would attend this group, as a minimum.

Other resources.

- *Glasgow Life Gaelic Language Classes*
- *P1 Parents Language Class delivered by school staff*
- *Online resources:*
- www.mygaelic.com
- www.learn-gaelic.net
- www.gaelicforparents.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/alba
- www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/tv/bbc_alba
- www.bbc.co.uk/alba/foghlam/beag-air-bheag
- www.playtalkread.org

- *Comann nam Pàrant*
- *Pàrant is Pàisde*
- *Gaelic Book Bug and Rhyme Time*
- *Gaelic Books Council*
- *Saturday morning club at the Glasgow Gaelic School, Berkeley Street*

Questions to consider.

- Why do I want to send my child to the Gaelic school?
- What do I know about the Gaelic language and culture?
- Can I make a commitment and am I prepared to learn Gaelic to support my child?
- Will I contribute to the life of the school and support any events taking place?

If you require more information please contact us at the school:

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