

Consultation on Draft Gaelic Education Guidance.

Response

1. *Do you agree that local authorities should be required to develop a policy statement to guide the development of Gaelic medium education in their area*

At the meeting of the Equality and Social Justice Group it was agreed that although there seems to be little loyalty to Gaelic medium education in East Renfrewshire, a policy statement would be acceptable.

- 2 *Are there any issues beyond those set out in the draft guidance which local authorities should have regard to when developing that policy statement.*

It should be acknowledged that there is little interest in this area as a national priority apart from 24 children who attend Glasgow schools and consequently the guidance seems rather disproportionate and weighty.

3. *Should standardisation to reporting on the development of Gaelic medium education under the Scotland's in Schools Act 2000 be introduced?*

No

- 4 *Are there any issues beyond those set out in the draft guidance which local authorities should have regard to when reporting on Gaelic medium education?*

See above.

- 5 *Should the draft guidance apply only to those local authorities in receipt of Specific Grant for the development of Gaelic medium education?*

No view.

6. *Should Bord na Gaidhlig have access to the reports produced by local authorities under the 2000 Act?*

Yes.

7. *Are there any further issues which you consider should be addressed in this draft guidance?*

Reference to promoting interest and participation in the Gaelic language through music, the arts and through other alternatives to mainstream education, for instance Saturday morning classes, should be addressed in the guidance.

Local Improvement Objective

Target Outcome

3.3 Every pupil benefits from education, with particular regard to Gaelic medium education and lesser-used languages.

How are we doing?

The numbers of written requests for Gaelic medium education are being met out with the authority. There is currently one child attending pre-five Gaelic provision in Glasgow along with 14 primary and 11 secondary pupils

In April 2003, a focus group met to consult on the next step for carrying out an option appraisal. Questions were formulated to determine the views of the parental community in accessing Gaelic medium education for pre-school children.

The subject was addressed at the

- Childcare Partnership Meeting
- Area Forum for head teachers
- Partnership providers training.

There was interest shown by two parents that was not sustained once contact was made.

There have been no enquiries reported by the Child Care Information Service for Gaelic provision.

Contact also was made with the Gaelic Development Officer to build on the existing Gaelic Partnership Group. Although this looked initially as if there were good possibilities for accessing the views of interested parents, it was in fact unproductive.

Following this exercise and from our previous experience there does not appear to be a significant demand from parents in East Renfrewshire for Gaelic medium education.

We have continued to support National Conferences by sending Mary McInnes teacher at Barrhead Family Centre as East Renfrewshire representative.

How do we know?

- Record of focus meeting in April 2003
- Conference programmes
- Report from Development Officer re Gaelic Community Partnership Group
- Liaison with Community Education
- Agendas

What are we going to do now?

- Promote interest and participation in Gaelic language through music and other related art activities in the nurseries through MACCS Unit.