

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you as a parent / friend of children educated through the medium of Gaelic at Bun Sgoil, Onthank, Kilmarnock and at Grange Academy, Kilmarnock.

Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's cultural heritage and I would stress the value of Gaelic Medium Education as an educationally-beneficial system of education, open to all whether of Gaelic background or not, raising standards, and providing a much-needed impetus for multi-language learning in Scottish schools.

I note that the Executive recognises "the need to see the Gaelic language passed on within families, promoted by schools, widely used in the communities and valued by learners." I also note that no provision has been made within the Draft Bill to secure the status of Gaelic Medium Education. It is essential that any legislation must include secure status for Gaelic Medium Education.

I wish to see included a statutory right to state education through the medium of Gaelic for all children, where demand is demonstrated and where reasonable numbers permit.

I wish to see a categorical statement in the bill of Gaelic as one of Scotland's national languages with equality of status with English.

I wish to see the formulation of Gaelic plans by public bodies to be a statutory obligation particularly within local authorities who must include their plans for development of Gaelic Medium Education.

I support the proposed granting of statutory recognition to the National Gaelic Plan and to Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig must have the powers to assess and advise local authorities on their plans for the development of Gaelic Medium Education.

It is my expectation that you will give serious consideration to these views which I hope will be of use to you.

Yours faithfully