



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Foghlam tro  
Mheadhan  
na Gàidhlig  
ann am Bun-sgoiltean  
nan Eilean Siar



For further information contact  
Joan MacKinnon  
Quality Improvement Officer-Primary  
Education Development Centre  
Kenneth Street  
Stornoway  
Isle of Lewis, HS1 2DR  
Tel. 01851 708652

Gaelic Medium  
Education  
in Western Isles  
Primary Schools

Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig  
ann am Bun-sgoiltean nan Eilean Siar

## Gaelic Medium Education in Western Isles Primary Schools

Anns na h-aonadan Gàidhlig :  
In the Gaelic Medium Units :

Airson a' chiad dà bhliadhna, tha  
am foghlam gu lèir ann an Gàidhlig.

During the first two years, the  
curriculum is delivered entirely  
through Gaelic.

Bhon treas bliadhna, thatar  
a' cleachdadh Beurla mean air mhean.  
In the following years, English is  
introduced incrementally.

	Gàidhlig/Gaelic	English/Beurla
Pr1&2	100%	0%
Pr3	90%	10%
Pr4	80%	20%
Pr5	70%	30%
Pr6	60%	40%
Pr7	50%	50%

Tha sinn ag amas gum bi an aon chomas  
aig a' chloinn anns gach cànan aig clas 7.  
By Pr.7 the aim is that children will  
have equal facility in Gaelic and English.

Chan ann a-mhàin do dh'fhileantaich  
a tha Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig.  
Gaelic Medium Education is not  
confined to Gaelic speakers.

Did you know that.....

Having more than one language is much  
more common than having just one?

Between 60-65% of the world's  
population use at least two languages in  
their everyday lives.

50 million citizens of the E.C. use a  
language in their everyday lives which is  
different from the language of the state  
in which they live?

It is widely recognised that bilingualism  
confers educational and intellectual  
advantages.



Will Gaelic Medium Education keep my  
child back?

Gaelic Medium Education does not prevent  
pupils from achieving their potential. In  
fact, it enhances their performance.  
This is borne out in a research project  
carried out in Stirling University. The  
research found that, in many instances,  
G M pupils did better than English Medium  
pupils and in addition gained the advantage  
of having become proficient in two  
languages.

This trend continues into secondary  
education where it can be observed that  
Gaelic Medium pupils feature prominently  
in prize winners' lists year after year.

"We are not born with an innate capacity  
for English. We are born with an innate  
capacity for multilingualism. If we are  
monolingual then we have not made full  
use of this capacity, because we have  
only one inner voice and are unable to  
understand one of the most astonishing  
and distinctive qualities that human  
beings possess." ( Dick Johnstone)

