COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

COMATAIDH NA GÀIDHLIG: SENIOR PHASE GAELIC SURVEY – RESULTS

30 APRIL 2024

Report By Chief Executive

PURPOSE

1.1 This Report provides information concerning the results of a survey of Senior Phase (S4-S6) pupils' attitudes to Gaelic that was carried out in Autumn 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 A survey, including 23 questions, was carried out in Autumn 2023 of the views of Senior Phase pupils across the four islands' secondary schools about Gaelic and Gaelic Medium Education. 382 pupils in total completed the survey, and this contained a mix of Gaelic Medium Education (GME) and English Medium Education (EME) pupils.

2.2 The results and observations, which are detailed in the Appendix to this Report, will be used to inform Gaelic development strategy in the Comhairle.

3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS
It is recommended that the Comhairle note the Report.

Contact Officer:	Donald Weir, Gaelic Support Officer, Sgioba na Gàidhlig
Appendix:	A. Senior Phase Gaelic Survey Results
Background Papers:	

COMATAIDH NA GÀIDHLIG: SUIRBHIDH GÀIDHLIG SGOILEARAN AN ÌRE AS ÀIRDE – NA TORAIDHEAN

30 GIBLEAN 2024

Aithisg leis an Àrd-oifigear

ADHBHAR

1.1 Tha an Aithisg seo a' toirt seachad fiosrachadh mu thoraidhean suirbhidh air beachdan sgoilearan an Ìre as àirde (ÀS4-ÀS6) air Gàidhlig a chaidh a chumail as t-Foghar 2023.

GEÀRR-CHUNNTAS

2.1 Chaidh suirbhidh, le 23 ceistean, a chumail as t-Foghar 2023 mu bheachdan sgoilearan an Ìre as àirde sna ceithir àrd-sgoiltean sna h-eileanan air Gàidhlig agus Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Chrìochnaich 382 sgoilear an suirbhidh, measgachadh de sgoilearan Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtG) agus sgoilearan Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Beurla (FtB).

2.2 Thèid na toraidhean agus an sgrùdadh a chaidh a dhèanamh orra, a tha mìnichte ann an doimhneachd san Fha-sgrìobhadh den Aithisg seo, a chleachdadh gus taic a chur ri obair leasachadh na Gàidhlig sa Chomhairle.

3.1 MOLAIDHEAN
Thathar a' moladh gun toireadh a' Chomhairle fa-near na tha am broinn na h-Aithisge seo.

Cuir fios gu:	Dòmhnall Weir, Oifigear Taic Gàidhlig, Sgioba na Gàidhlig
Fa-sgrìobhadh:	A. Toraidhean Suirbhidh Gàidhlig Sgoilearan an Ìre as Àirde
Pàipearan Fiosrachaidh	

IMPLICATIONS

The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

4.1

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	% to be met from Comhairle budgets
Legal	None
Staffing	None
Assets and Property	None
Strategic Implications	**Implications/None**
Risk	None
Equalities	None
Corporate Strategy	Corporate Strategy Priority 1.5: Gaelic Language & Culture
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None

BUAIDH

Tha na leanas mar bhuaidhean a thaobh na h-Aithisge.

4.1

Buaidhean Stòras	Buaidh/Neo-ni
Ionmhas	% ris an tèid coinneachadh bho bhuidseatan na Comhairle
Laghail	Neo-ni
Sgiobachd	Neo-ni
So-mhaoin is Tog	Neo-ni
Buaidhean Ro-innleachdail	**Buaidh/Neo-ni**
Cunnart	Neo-ni
Co-ionnanachd	Neo-ni
Ro-innleachd Chorporra	Ro-innleachd Chorporra Prìomhachas 1.5: Gàidhlig agus Cultar
Buaidh air an Àrainneachd	Neo-ni
Co-chomhairleachadh	Neo-ni

SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

5.1

- 382 pupils in total completed the survey, 134 in GME and 248 in EME.
- Only 41% of all pupils asked said they were interested in using Gaelic in their future career. The figure for EME pupils was only 21%.
- Only 39% of all pupils thought that the Gaelic Senior Phase curriculum was relevant to their needs. This figure is also in line with the 16-25 Gaelic Attitudinal Survey held in Summer 2023 by Sgioba na Gàidhlig, where only 40% thought that the Gaelic curriculum was appropriate to their needs.
- Only 45% of all pupils surveyed thought that enough was being done in school to emphasise the economic benefits of bilingualism. This figure is identical to the figure in the 16-25 Attitudinal Survey who said that

GEÀRR-CHUNNTAS DE NA PRÌOMH THORAIDHEAN

5.1

- Chrìochnaich 382 sgoilear gu lèir an suirbhidh, le 134 ann am FtG agus 248 ann am FtB.
- Cha robh ùidh ann an dreuchdan Gàidhlig ach aig 41%. Cha robh ùidh ach aig 21% am measg sgoilearan FtB ann an dreuchdan Gàidhlig.
- Cha robh ach 39% de sgoilearan gu lèir dhen bheachd gun robh curraicealam Gàidhlig an Àrd-ìre iomchaidh dhaibh. Tha seo coltach ris an àireamh san t-Suirbhidh mu Bheachdan air Gàidhlig am measg dhaoine 16-25 a chaidh a chumail as t-Samhradh 2023 le Sgioba na Gàidhlig, far nach robh ach 40% dhen bheachd gun robh an curraicealam Gàidhlig iomchaidh.
- Cha robh ach 45% de sgoilearan gu lèir dhen bheachd gun robhar a' dèanamh gu leòr gus buannachdan eaconomach dà-chànanais a dh'àdhartachadh. Tha am figear seo co-ionann ris an àireamh de dhaoine 16-25 san t-Suirbhidh mu

enough was being done in the Isles to promote Gaelic economically.

- 54% of all pupils felt that their school's ethos was strong enough in terms of hearing and seeing Gaelic.
- Only 51% of all pupils surveyed thought that the benefits of bilingualism were promoted by schools career staff.
- There is a strong perception that having Gaelic skills will assist pupils in terms of looking for jobs locally, with 66% of all pupils believing this to be the case.
- There is very strong support for establishing Gaelic Primary schools (72%) and Secondary schools (66%) in the isles as an initiative to support and develop the language. These percentages included a large number of pupils who had indicated that they had very little interest in Gaelic, but who, nevertheless, thought that such schools would be a positive development for Gaelic.

5.2 In combining the results of the Senior Phase Gaelic Survey and the 16-25 Gaelic Attitudinal Survey, (providing a total sample size of 704), only 48% said that the economic benefits of bilingualism were properly promoted in school, and only 40% thought that Gaelic Senior Phase courses were relevant.

Bheachdan air Gàidhlig a thuirt gun robhar a' dèanamh gu leòr gus Gàidhlig a dh'adhartachadh gu h-eaconomach.

- Bha 54% de sgoilearan dhen bheachd gun robh an fheallsanachd aig sgoiltean làidir gu leòr a thaobh a bhith a' faicinn is a' cluinntinn Gàidhlig.
- Cha robh ach 51% de sgoilearan dhen bheachd gun robh luchd-obrach dhreuchdan sna sgoiltean ag adhartachadh bhuannachdan dà-chànanais.
- Tha beachd làidir ann gu bheil sgilean Gàidhlig na chuideachadh dha sgoilearan nuair a thig e gu bhith a' lorg obair gu h-iondail, le 66% de sgoilearan dhen bheachd seo.
- Tha taic làidir ann airson Bun-sgoiltean Gàidhlig (72%) agus airson Àrd-sgoiltean Gàidhlig (66%) sna h-eileanan, gus taic a chumail ris a' chànan agus gus an cànan a leasachadh. Tha seo a' gabhail a-steach àireamh mhòr de sgoilearan a thuirt nach robh tòrr ùidh sam bith aca sa Ghàidhlig, ach a bha dhen bheachd, an dèidh sin, gum b' e deagh rud a bhiodh ann dha leasachadh na Gàidhlig.

5.2 Ann a bhith a' cur thoraidhean Suirbhidh Sgoilearan Àrd-ìre agus thoraidhean Suirbhidh mu Bheachdan air Gàidhlig am measg dhaoine 16-25 còmhla, (a' toirt dhuinn àireamh de 704 duine gu lèir), cha robh ach 48% dhen bheachd gun robhar ag adhartachadh bhuannachdan eaconomach dà-chànanais mar bu chòir, agus cha robh ach 40% dhen bheachd gun robh cùrsaichean Gàidhlig an Àrd-ìre iomchaidh.