



CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE FOR SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS PROGRAMME (CISS)

Report by Chief Officer for Education and Children's Services

PURPOSE

- 1.1 This Report provides an update with regard to Chinese language and cultural awareness activities in Western Isles schools, supported by the Confucius Institute for Scottish Schools following a request for a Report at the September 2023 series of meetings.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Confucius Institute for Scottish Schools (CISS) is based within the University of Strathclyde's Scottish Centre for International Language Teaching (SCILT). CISS has set up and supports a number of Confucius Classroom Hubs in schools throughout Scotland. A map of the hubs is provided in appendix 1.
- 2.2 Schools work in partnership with CISS to support and promote the teaching of Chinese culture and language, through the delivery of high-quality teaching and learning experiences. CISS has also established close working links with Keep Scotland Beautiful to promote Learning for Sustainability across schools.
- 2.3 Primary and Secondary Confucius Classroom Hubs have now been established at two schools in the Western Isles, Stornoway Primary and Sgoil Lionacleit. These operate in the same way as other Hubs across Scotland.
- 2.4 Stornoway Primary School joined the Confucius Institute for Scottish Schools (CISS) network in 2021 and has now established its own 'Confucius Classroom' space. The Confucius Classroom promotes joint planning of cultural activities, sharing ideas and resources to stimulate the teaching and learning of Chinese language and culture.
- 2.5 The partnership between Stornoway Primary and CISS has delivered a range of learning and teaching opportunities, including a Climate Ready Classroom link with a school in Tianjin, a link with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland to learn about endangered animals and project work linking and exploring cultural and geographical differences between Scotland and China.
- 2.6 Confucius Classroom activities are not yet underway in Sgoil Lionacleit, the secondary Hub for the Western Isles. Plans are in place for a number of language and cultural experiences in the coming year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Comhairle note the Report.**

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Appendix:	1 – CISS Confucius Classroom Map of Scotland 2 – SCILT Position Paper on CISS 3 – Stornoway Primary Eric Liddell Project Plan and Review
Background Papers:	None

IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	None
Legal	None
Staffing	None
Assets and Property	None
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	None
Equalities	None
Corporate Strategy	Support Children, Families and Young People: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Raise ambition, skills and attainment, in particular to address inequalities.
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None

BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The Confucius Institute for Scottish Schools (CISS) is based within the University of Strathclyde's Scottish Centre for International Language Teaching (SCILT). CISS has set up and supports a number of Confucius Classroom Hubs in schools throughout Scotland. Appendix two provides a position paper from SCILT regarding Confucius Classrooms in Scotland.
- 5.2 Schools work in partnership with CISS to support and promote the teaching of Chinese culture and language, through the delivery of high-quality teaching and learning experiences. CISS has also established close working links with Keep Scotland Beautiful to promote Learning for Sustainability across schools.
- 5.3 e-Sgoil has had links with the CISS and the wider team at SCILT since 2017. Initial discussions related to the potential for an online Confucius Classroom, which could be accessed by learners throughout Scotland who don't have a Hub in their locality. This has not yet materialised.
- 5.4 e-Sgoil has supported both CISS and Keep Scotland Beautiful with the delivery of an online pilot project linking six Scottish primaries, including Stornoway Primary, with partner schools in Tianjin Province in China for cultural exchange, language learning and learning for sustainability.
- 5.5 e-Sgoil also supports the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland – itself a specialist Confucius Hub – with delivery of online and hybrid learning programmes to schools across Scotland, including the highly acclaimed Beyond the Panda course.

DETAIL

- 6.1 Primary and Secondary Confucius Classroom Hubs have now been established at two schools in the Western Isles, Stornoway Primary and Sgoil Lionacleit. These operate in the same way as other Hubs across Scotland.

- 6.2 Stornoway Primary School joined the Confucius Institute for Scottish Schools (CISS) network in 2021 and has now established its own 'Confucius Classroom' learning space. This is a small learning space within the school and not a whole classroom area. The Confucius Classroom promotes joint planning of cultural activities, sharing ideas and resources to stimulate the teaching and learning of Chinese language and culture as well as supporting understanding of the cultural, geographical and societal differences between China and Scotland.
- 6.3 This partnership at Stornoway Primary has resulted in the delivery of a range of teaching and learning experiences for pupils which has developed pupil understanding of Global Citizenship, a key element of Curriculum for Excellence:
- Climate Ready Classroom link with a school in Tianjin
 - Link with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland to deliver lessons about endangered animals (Beyond the Panda)
 - Virtual Exchange Teacher Project to develop the teaching of Mandarin
 - Working alongside An Lanntair through the Creative Teacher partnership developing Global Citizenship through the Arts
 - Author links
 - Whole school Eric Liddell project. Eric Liddell was born in Tianjin, China, and has left a lasting legacy in the world of sport. Liddell's remarkable story has been used as an inspiration to promote perseverance and dedication, learn about the importance of health and well-being, develop literacy and debating skills, and explore cultural and geographical differences between China and Scotland. See Appendix 3 for a summary of the project.

This context for learning has given pupils motivating and inspiring experiences to develop their knowledge and skills within Literacy, Social Studies, Art and Technology.

- 6.4 Confucius Classroom activities are not yet underway in Sgoil Lionacleit, the secondary Hub for the Western Isles. Plans are in place for a number of language and cultural experiences in the coming year.

CONCLUSION

- 7.1 e-Sgoil has been working with SCILT and CISS to support the establishment of Confucius Classrooms at Stornoway Primary and Sgoil Lionacleit. The work undertaken at the Stornoway Primary Hub is detailed in the Report and work has not yet started at Sgoil Lionacleit.