



From mountain to sea

Aberdeenshire  
COUNCIL



16 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our new [Aberdeenshire Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28 \(Comhairle Siorrachd Obar Dheathain PLANA GÀIDHLIG 2023-2028\)](#) we would like to find out how we can ensure appropriate provision for children and young people in our schools. We have prepared a survey to gather your views. Before you complete the survey, please take some time to consider the information provided below about Gaelic learning and education.

Go to survey [Parent and Carer Gaelic Survey 2024](#). This survey is open until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Children and young people in Primary 6 onwards will also have the opportunity to share their views in school.

[Education \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#) places a duty on all education authorities to promote and support Gaelic medium education and learning.

The [Programme for Government](#) states that the Scottish Languages Bill will be introduced to Parliament providing legal recognition for Gaelic and Scots, strengthening requirements for provision of Gaelic Medium Education, introducing measures to provide further protection for Gaelic within communities and introducing provision to strengthen support for Scots.

The [Statutory-Guidance-for-Gaelic-Education](#) further underlines our duty to consider how we support Gaelic education in our area.

### **Gaelic in schools**

Gaelic Education in Scotland is delivered in two main forms: Gaelic Medium Education and Gaelic Learner Education. Learning about Gaelic language can deepen students' understanding and appreciation of Scotland's heritage and its place in the world.

### **Gaelic Medium Education**

Gaelic Medium Education (GME) is for any pupil regardless of the language of the home. In choosing GME parents should recognise that pupils would be taught entirely in Gaelic for the first three years in primary school. From the end of Primary 3 onwards English is gradually introduced through the medium of Gaelic, but Gaelic is still the main language of teaching.

### **Gaelic Learner Education**

Gaelic Learner Education (GLE) sits alongside the teaching of other languages. Gaelic is learned in the same way as French, German and other languages that are taught. As part of Scotland's Languages Policy all schools in Aberdeenshire are encouraged to consider Gaelic Learner Education as an L3 option (beginning at any point between Primary 5 and Primary 7).

