

Gaelic Medium Education



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What is Gaelic Medium Education (GME)

GME provides a pathway within the Scottish educational system for children and young people to achieve fluency in Gaelic and English. As they progress through each stage, their fluency enhances, allowing them to meet the objectives in Curriculum for Excellence while gaining the advantages of being bilingual.

Gaelic Provision in North Lanarkshire

Gaelic Medium Education (GME) is available to all children within North Lanarkshire. Early Years GME provision is currently delivered at Tollbrae Primary School and Condorrat Primary School. Gaelic Medium Education at the primary stage is provided at Condorrat Primary School, offering a full curriculum through the medium of Gaelic. Learners may continue their GME pathway at Greenfaulds High School, ensuring continuity and progression in Gaelic language learning throughout the secondary phase.

How is GME delivered in Early Years and Primary?

Gaelic Medium Education is offered in 3-5 provision and continues through primary and secondary school.

In the delivery of GME in North Lanarkshire, there is an initial focus on learning Gaelic until children become fluent enough in the language to enable its use across all subjects and aspects of learning. From P1 to the beginning of P4, the entire curriculum is taught through the medium of Gaelic, known as total Gaelic immersion.

From P4 onwards, the English language is introduced in blocks of learning. However, Gaelic is always the language of the class.

Gaelic-medium learners in nursery and primary enjoy a broad and varied curriculum that celebrates all aspects of the Gaelic language and culture through a skills-based approach. Learners are taught in meaningful contexts, which ensures they develop skills for lifelong learning and reach their best potential.



Children and young people will also have opportunities to use and develop their language skills in a range of situations outside the school through clubs and community events. In the secondary stages, they can also have their learning and achievements recognised with awards and qualifications.

Why should I send my child to a Gaelic Medium school?

There are many researched educational benefits to learning Gaelic. Gaelic Medium Education is recognised for successful and high-quality achievement in which young people gain all the benefits of bilingualism.

Edinburgh University's research, 'Gaelic-medium Education in Scotland: choice and attainment at the primary and early secondary school stages,' provides evidence of high attainment in Gaelic-medium education.

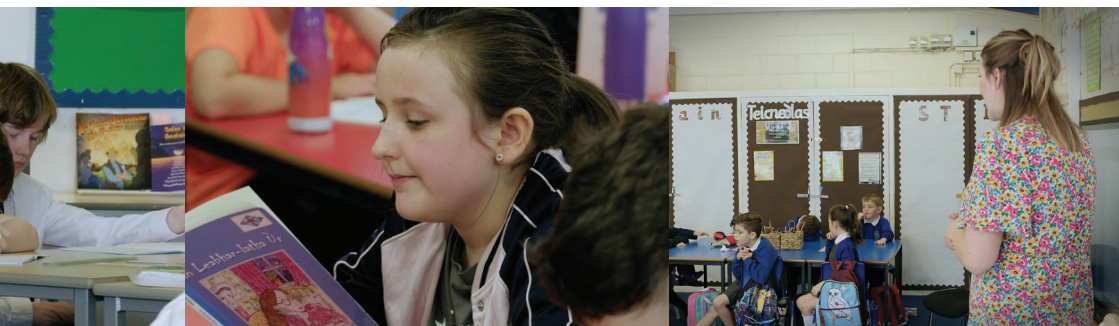
This is reflected locally in the achievement that nearly all GME students at Greenfaulds High School rank within the top 20% of learners nationally.

The report showed that young people in Gaelic-medium education perform equally as well as their peers who are learning through the medium of English.

It also showed that young people learning through the medium of Gaelic perform better in the English language than those learning through the medium of English. Further research has shown that the vocabulary of bilingual children is noticeably richer than that of children of the same age who are not bilingual.

How do I access Gaelic Medium school for my child?

If you want to access GME for your child, would like further information, or would like to visit any of our Gaelic provisions. Please contact the establishments mentioned above or email HendersonCat@northlan.gov.uk. Additional information, can be accessed through the North Lanarkshire Council website.



Comann nam Pàrant Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath (Gaelic Parents Council for North Lanarkshire) can also answer many questions and would be happy to share family experiences of Gaelic Medium Education.

If you do not live near a Gaelic provision, North Lanarkshire Council provides fully funded transport for Gaelic Medium Education pupils to and from Condorrat Primary School and Greenfaulds High School.

If I do not speak Gaelic, can I still choose Gaelic Medium Education for my child?

Most of the young people in Gaelic Medium Education in North Lanarkshire do not speak Gaelic at home. This does not stop them from achieving fluency in the language or gaining the benefits of bilingualism.

Support is also available for parents who want to learn the language through our Community Learning and Development provision.

For enquiries relating to Gaelic Medium Education, please get in touch with HendersonCat@northlan.gov.uk

For enquires relating to Gaelic Language Classes or general Gaelic-related queries, contact gaelic@northlan.gov.uk

Nursery

Tollbrae Gaelic Nursery
South Biggar Road
Airdrie ML6 9LZ
01236 794886

Condorrat Gaelic Nursery
Morar Drive
Cumbernauld G67 4LA
01236 794826

Primary

Condorrat Primary School
Morar Drive
Cumbernauld G67 4LA
01236 794826

Secondary

Greenfaulds High School
Auchenkilns Road
Cumbernauld G67 4AQ
01236 794876