

## Report from open meetings with GME parent group October 2017

Comann nam Pàrant and the Parent Council Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce engage with GME parents and other members of the Gaelic community in Edinburgh through regular open meetings. Publicly available documents produced to respond to consultations are circulated to all parents prior to submission, and therefore can be considered a consensus view of the GME parent group in Edinburgh.

Two well-attended meetings were held during October 2017 specifically to discuss the content of the draft GLP. The focus of these meetings was to consider what GME parents and the Gaelic community would like to see in the final version of the GLP.

### Overview

The following notes are based on statements made by parents at two meetings of parents. The first took place at James Gillespies High school 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017. A second identically themed meeting was held at Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

These statements were then presented to meeting and can be considered a consensus view of the GME parent group.

Approximately eighty parents attended these meetings. Parents were divided at random into focus groups and asked to consider three questions.

- ***What should GME provision look like in 2022?***
- ***How will we provide a basis for development for the ten years after that?***
- ***What are the key actions that we need to see happen to provide certainty of pathway for GME families in the future?***

They were also asked to consider if they agreed with the consensus view of GME Parents as expressed in the document produced as a result of previous meetings held in 2015:

***Summary of Parents' Views on Secondary Gaelic-medium education November 2015*** (Appendix 3)

## Summary of responses presented at both meetings.

### ***What should GME provision look like in 2022?***

- A dedicated high school in a central location and at least 2 primary schools and have the capability of expanding further in the next 20 years.
- A 3-18 campus school could work but not without other GME primary feeder schools.
- An increased nursery provision.
- GME engaging with the wider community (non GME).
- An increase in GLL in other schools
- GME developing without recourse to an interim plan, i.e. plan to solve the problems of the future now..
- Consider temporary options at primary until 3-18 campus can be delivered.
- Current pupils need improved GME until this can be delivered.
- New Sgoil-àraich provision with wrap-around care by next year.
- Expanded Sgoil-àraich provision with more flexible hours.
- Another primary school with a strategy for managing entry via catchment.
- GME following best practice of full immersion.
- Provision of more subjects in Gaelic at secondary.
- Immersion up to s3.
- Remove uncertainty of pathway.
- At least 1 more primary school.
- A much stronger approach to recruitment and retention of GME teachers.
- Avoid capping of numbers but ensure quality of delivery of GME.
- Council to display sufficient resources and commitment to GME.
- Research into impact of multiple teachers in a single class at primary.
- Expanded Cròileagan provision.
- More space for Òganan.
- Improved and more flexible Gaelic learning for adults especially parents.
- Preference for 0-18 campus school plus 1 primary but 2 primaries and 1 secondary on separate sites would work.

### ***How will we provide a basis for development for the ten years after that?***

- Provided detailed plans based on accurate current data and future modeling of numbers of GME pupils and the number of teachers needed to meet this.
- Provide incentives to teachers to train and work in GME.
- Consider conversion courses for Irish speaking teachers.
- Recognise that expansion can lead to a dilution of quality and plan to deal with this.
- Primary focus must be on immersion.
- Promote GME.

- Supportive of principle of expansion but see a need for a strategy for recruitment and retention of GME teachers.
- Plan for a third primary or a GME unit in another school.
- Capping should be avoided but if it is necessary it should only be introduced on a national basis using nationally agreed criteria.
- CEC to engage with surrounding Local Authorities about GME especially to share what works and what hasn't.
- Make a plan.

### Group 1

*What are the key actions that we need to see happen to provide certainty of pathway for GME families in the future.*

- Train and recruit more GME teachers at all levels 0-18.
- CEC to provide a detailed plan giving dates and locations etc and showing a commitment to solving teacher recruitment and retention problems.
- Expand GME provision and at the same time deal with teacher shortages.
- Invest in GME teachers.
- Provide more support for parents in language learning.
- Some parents choose GME because it is a local school and need to be encouraged to buy in to commitment to Gaelic.
- Council to improve Gaelic in libraries.
- Produce a detailed plan
- Appoint a senior council official to focus on GME development.
- New Sgoil-àraich provision.
- Deal with issue of teacher shortage.
- Deal with fluency issues.
- Observe best practice by creating a fully immersive experience.
- Provide more cultural and family learning experiences.
- Funding required for at least 1 new school.
- Support from senior council officials for GME
- A fully resourced transition plan to move current GME secondary to a new dedicated GME school.
- A fully resourced action plan for recruitment and retention of GME teachers

Both meetings agreed that the vision expressed in the Comann nam Pàrant document, ***Summary of Parents' Views on Secondary Gaelic-medium education November 2015*** (Appendix 5), represents the can be considered a consensus view of the GME parent group.