



Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta Overview of 2020-21

We have had a very busy year and I would like to direct parents to read our annual report which may be found on our website at parant.org.uk

I would like to highlight a few items so that parents may gain insight to the work upon which the national team is currently engaged.

One of the most important and successful developments in the past couple of years has been the introduction of our “key stakeholders” meetings. The national team felt that a great deal could be accomplished if all relevant parties involved in GME decision making could be in one place at the same time. It was recognised by everyone involved that problems could be discussed and solutions for GME achieved more readily in this way rather than in a series of separate meetings. The meetings take place three times a year and reps from Scottish Government, Education Scotland, SQA, General Teaching Council for Scotland, Stòrlann and others are in attendance.

These events have been extremely useful and are highly regarded by all stakeholders. Most recently, on Wednesday 17 November, the agenda covered several important issues including a review of the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education. We were also delighted to have had the opportunity to discuss proposals for education reform with Professor Ken Muir. Whilst there will be further updates from the review process in due course, it is clear from preliminary discussion that the particular delivery requirements for GME with regard to immersion must be recognised. GME is part of the Scottish education system alongside EME, but **it is not the same** and teachers and pupils must be well supported with the immersion experience. It is essential that GME have equal status with EME going forward.

Other news

We have responded to surveys and consultations regularly this year to ensure the continued expansion and consolidation of GME. We submitted a robust response to Scottish Government’s proposed Gaelic Plan. We emphasised particularly the need for tougher legislation so that ambiguous interpretation might be avoided at local authority level.

We have continued to push for language assistants to be put in place in the primary classrooms so that the varying levels of fluency found in the p 1-3 immersion phase may be addressed successfully. This work is ongoing and we hope to bring useful updates to parents soon.

We have liaised with Aberdeen Council to try to resolve transport issues for GME families and responded to the consultation they released. We are working with Glasgow City Council to resolve issues after 7 children were refused entry to GME due to high intake numbers. We continue to work with CEC to make progress with the proposed new secondary school. As always, our focus on teacher recruitment and retention is of great importance and we are grateful to colleagues in GTCS for their continued commitment and innovation with this matter.

We were delighted to see that GME has an international presence with the opening of the new primary school in Mabou, Nova Scotia. This is great news, and we wish them every success.

I would urge parents to read the Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta newsletters to keep abreast of developments nationally. Whilst it may seem that local issues are most relevant it is important to note that events at national level do filter down and have an impact

Please do contact the local team if you have any questions or require further information.