



**Foghlam tro  
Mheadhan na Gàidhlig  
ann an Dùn Èideann  
is Lodainn**

**Gaelic Medium  
Education  
in Edinburgh  
and the Lothians**

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## Ro-ràdh | Introduction

This guide is created by Comann nam Pàrant (Dùn Èideann & Lodainn) to give families more information about Gaelic Medium Education in Edinburgh and the Lothians. It covers information on current provision, as well as background information and key dates.

## Cò sinn | Who we are

Comann nam Pàrant is the national organisation which offers advice and support on Gaelic Medium Education (GME). It is a network of local groups across Scotland, representing the interests of parents whose children are educated through Gaelic. This includes cròileagan (playgroup), sgoil-àraich (nursery), bun-sgoil (primary school) and àrd-sgoil (high school).

Comann nam Pàrant (Dùn Èideann is Lodainn) is the local group that represents families across Edinburgh and the Lothians. We campaign for the development of GME by liaising with families and advocating on their behalf to City of Edinburgh Council, to the Scottish Government and to other relevant parties. We do this by undertaking research, writing and presenting reports, supporting local and national initiatives, promoting Gaelic activity and providing information to families.

## Thig còmhla rinn | Get involved

Comann nam Pàrant is run by volunteers. We aim to provide increased communication, research and engagement but we need your help to make this happen.

Please do let us know if you can give your time to support the GME community. We are keen to hear from anyone who can get involved, particularly those with the following skills:

- Campaigning
- Community Engagement - organising meetings/focus groups/workshops
- Experience with lobbying Councillors
- Gaelic speakers to liaise with the press (with support from us)
- Gaelic writers to translate material
- Report writing
- Survey creation and data analysis

## Cùl-eòlas | Background

Parents have always been at the heart of Gaelic Medium Education (GME) in Edinburgh and the Lothians. GME in Edinburgh started with a small group of parents setting up a Pàrant is Pàisde playgroup and campaigning over many years for formal education in Gaelic to be introduced in the city. From that campaign came the establishment of the GME primary unit and sgoil-àraich at Tollcross in 1988, followed by the creation of a stand-alone primary school at Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce in 2013. This has been accompanied by the flourishing of cròileagan groups across the city, bringing more families into GME.

These developments have been achieved through the hard work and dedication of people in cròileagan groups, in schools and in the Gaelic community, as well as cross-party political support at a local and national level and the associated executive bodies.

## Cùl-eòlas | Background

Such accomplishments have been achieved thanks to the energy and dedication of longstanding and ongoing parental campaigns which have driven and underpinned the expansion of GME in Edinburgh, as they have elsewhere in Scotland.

Comann nam Pàrant (Dùn Èideann is Lodainn) has represented and supported families throughout this period in our goals of establishing, maintaining and developing Gaelic Medium Education in the city. Now, in working towards a stand-alone Gaelic High School for Edinburgh and the Lothians, we continue to advocate for families throughout their journey in GME.

# Àireamhan | Gaelic in numbers

## GME in Edinburgh and the Lothians

**40** children in sgoil-àraich

**389** pupils in GME primary  
education

**157** pupils in GME secondary  
education



# Àireamhan | Numbers

## Gaelic in Scotland

**87,056** people have some  
Gaelic language skills

That's  
around **1.6%** of the  
population

**8,388** live in Edinburgh  
and the Lothians

## Sgoil-àraich

Housed at Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, sgoil-àraich offers GME nursery provision for children aged 3-5. Sgoil-àraich has 40 full-time spaces which allows learners to attend 1140 hours a year. Òganan (see page 15) are a partner provider for nursery provision.

**[taobhnairce.edin.sch.uk](http://taobhnairce.edin.sch.uk)**



## Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce

After many years of campaigning by families and supporters, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce opened in 2013 as Edinburgh's first ever dedicated GME primary school. The school is open to any children from families in Edinburgh and the Lothians who wish for their child to learn through Gaelic Medium Education.

[taobhnairce.edin.sch.uk](http://taobhnairce.edin.sch.uk)



### **GME at secondary level**

Pupils currently receive their GME secondary provision at Àrd-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig (James Gillespie's High School). Comann nam Pàrant, along with families and supporters, is campaigning for a stand-alone GME High School for Edinburgh.

**[jamesgillespies.co.uk](http://jamesgillespies.co.uk)**



# **Cùram-cloinne is cur-seachadan**

## **Childcare and activities**

### **Cròileagan**

Cròileagan are playgroups for children under five to introduce Gaelic to young children and their carers. They offer a relaxed and friendly environment to learn about Gaelic language and culture, and to encourage young ones (and their families) to take their first steps in the language. Running during term time, there are Cròileagan groups meeting in Tollcross and Leith. In addition, their blog has a great range of resources, including songs, sound files and word mats to help you and your wee ones take your first steps on your Gaelic language journey.

**[edinburghcroileagan.blogspot.com](http://edinburghcroileagan.blogspot.com)**

**[facebook.com/croileagan](https://facebook.com/croileagan)**

**[twitter.com/croileagan](https://twitter.com/croileagan)**



**Cròileagan Dhùn Èideann**

# Cùram-cloinne is cur-seachadan Childcare and activities

## Òganan

Òganan is Edinburgh's Gaelic childcare facility and offers nursery provision, wrap-around care, after school club, breakfast club and holiday club for pre-school and primary school children at Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce. Òganan also works with Àrd-sgoil Sheumais Ghilleasbuig to offer work experience and volunteer placements to high school students as well as employment to school leavers.

**[oganan.com](http://oganan.com)**



# Cùram-cloinne is cur-seachadan Childcare and activities

## Sradagan

A club for Gaelic-speaking children of primary school age (C4-7) in Edinburgh, Sradagan supports children to use Gaelic outwith their school setting through sports, games and activities.

[facebook.com/SradaganDhunEideann](https://facebook.com/SradaganDhunEideann)





## **An t-àm ri teachd | Looking ahead**

Comann nam Pàrant encourages all families with children (of any age) in GME (including cròileagan and sgoil-àraich) to get involved in the development of GME and to make their voices heard.

## **Leig fios | Contact**

If you have any questions, want to find out more about what we do or would like to volunteer:

**[cnpduneideann@gmail.com](mailto:cnpduneideann@gmail.com)**

**[cnpduneideannblog.wordpress.com](http://cnpduneideannblog.wordpress.com)**

**follow us on Facebook or Twitter**

**@CnPEdinburgh**

### **Bòrd na Gàidhlig**

Scotland's national Gaelic language body encourages the use and understanding of the Gaelic language. Their website also includes information on the statutory guidance on GME.

**[gaidhlig.scot](http://gaidhlig.scot)**

### **City of Edinburgh Council**

City of Edinburgh Council aims to build a dedicated secondary school for Gaelic Medium Education in Edinburgh. In addition to their support for education through nursery, primary and secondary provision, the Council also plays a major part in employing play leaders for Cròileagan and providing organisational support.

**[edinburgh.gov.uk](http://edinburgh.gov.uk)**

### **Comunn na Gàidhlig**

Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) has been vital to the development of Gaelic language since it was set up in the 1980s. It now focuses largely on support for youth work, providing opportunities to young people to use Gaelic in fun, social settings.

**[cnag.org](http://cnag.org)**

### **Scottish Government**

Find out more about Scottish Government's commitments towards Gaelic and their National Gaelic Language Plan.

**[gov.scot](http://gov.scot)**

**Comann nam Pàrant (Dùn Èideann is Lodainn)  
An Lùnastal 2022**