



## Update from Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta 2022

The national team is composed of representatives from local groups across the country. The team meets four times a year to discuss current practice in GME and also works with other Gaelic organisations to represent the parental voice. The local committee from Edinburgh currently sends two parents to attend national meetings. This year has been a very busy year for the national team with many consultations requiring our attention. We respond to every consultation without fail. All responses are detailed on our website at [parant.org.uk](http://parant.org.uk) along with news updates and useful information for parents at every level of GME. We also produce four newsletters each year which can also be found on the website and these provide a wealth of information for parents and practitioners. This report will cover some details from our annual report.

Comann nam Pàrant, in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig, held an online information session for parents who are considering Gaelic Medium Education for their children. There were over 30 parents in attendance hearing from different practitioners involved in Gaelic Medium Education including early years, pre-school, primary and secondary. The parents in attendance had the opportunity to ask questions to those in attendance and we are grateful to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for their cooperation with this event

Comann nam Pàrant has prepared a response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Gaelic and Scots and Scottish Language Bill. We distributed relevant bullet points to all local groups so that they might share this with parents who wish assistance with preparing their individual responses. The deadline has since been extended to 9/12/22 and we will continue to encourage individuals and groups to reply and support where appropriate. We cannot stress strongly enough how important this Bill is for the future of Gaelic. We may not have such an opportunity for some time to improve aspects of GME or indeed to improve the status of Gaelic as a language within Scotland.

We responded to the Gaelic Language National Plan as well as Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Gaelic Language Plan. We submitted our response to assessment for GMPE in Glasgow and also a full assessment response for GME provision in East Renfrewshire. These documents may be read on our website at [parant.org.uk/news](http://parant.org.uk/news)

We have also been involved in conversations regarding the Hayward Review. This review is currently considering qualifications and assessments in secondary. There is a Padlet if parents wish to still post responses. This will be open until the consultation closes on 16/12/22.

We are pleased to report that Aberdeen City has agreed to set the Gaelic Medium catchment area as city-wide. Comann nam Pàrant & Bòrd na Gàidhlig have been supporting parents for many years on this issue and we welcome this decision. It will now go to consultation.

In October we held our key stakeholder liaison meeting with other Gaelic groups. These meetings follow a very successful format whereby practical applications to current issues in GME may result from the focused discussion with members. This particular meeting had in attendance representatives from the National Discussion on Scottish Education. This provided an excellent opportunity for parents to raise important points and concerns about GME as well as their vision for GME in the future. More details can be found on our website.

Our Family Development Officer and our Early Years team continue with their exemplary work focusing on and supporting parents and children during the early phase of their journey in GME. New initiatives alongside the established Thig a Chluich and Bookbug sessions are being very well received and attendance continues to grow across the board. There are now two new locations for Bookbug in Edinburgh (Central Library and National Library). Also available are the fortnightly Gaelic conversation classes, run in partnership with City of Edinburgh Council and CnaG which attract a mix of early years parents and parents of children in primary school. For information about all available sessions for children and parents across Scotland please do check our website at [parant.org.uk](http://parant.org.uk)

Please do contact the team if there are any questions or issues which you would like raised at national level. Check out our [website](#) and [facebook page](#) for more information about what we do.