

## Research Conclusions

### Co-dhùnaidhean Rannsachaidh

“Gaelic-medium pupils perform better than their English-medium peers in English reading and at least as well in science, mathematics and English writing”

Dr Wilson Mcleod  
The University of Edinburgh



**What support is available to parents who do not speak Gaelic?**  
**Dè an taic a th' ann do phàrantan aig nach eil Gàidhlig?**

Assistance with homework is available from your local school and on-line at:

[www.gaelic4parents.com](http://www.gaelic4parents.com)

[www.parant.com](http://www.parant.com)

For more information on Gaelic classes available in the Western Isles please contact:  
[evelyn@gnes.net](mailto:evelyn@gnes.net)

## FURTHER INFORMATION TUILLEADH FIOSRACHAIDH

For more information on Gaelic Medium Education contact:  
[evelyn@gnes.net](mailto:evelyn@gnes.net)

# BILINGUALISM

a lot more than two languages

**Would you like your child to be bilingual?**

## Gaelic Pre-School Provision Solar Ro-sgoile Gàidhlig

Across The Western Isles there are Gaelic Parent and Toddler Groups, Play Groups and Gaelic Medium Nurseries. Children are introduced to Gaelic through songs, rhymes, games, and Gaelic phrases, making it fun and easy to join in.

## Gaelic Medium Primary Provision

### Solar Foghlam Bun-sgoile tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar offer Gaelic Medium Education (GME) across pre-school establishments, in primary schools and in secondary schools across the Western Isles.



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

**...CHOOSE GAELIC  
TAGH NA GHÀIDHLIG**

## Why be Bilingual? Carson Dà-chànanas?

- ▶ Pupils who grow up with more than one language have a range of mental benefits that make them better at learning and more effective at dealing with complex situations.\*
- ▶ Gaelic can open the doors to many career opportunities such as the media, arts, music, business, management, teaching, local and national government
- ▶ Learning Gaelic at a young age makes it easier to learn other European languages.
- ▶ Gaelic gives the Western Isles a distinct identity. It creates the sense of a place that respects its heritage and its culture; and which is proud of Gaelic's national and international significance.

\* Professor Antonella Sorace

**Bilingualism Matters, The University of Edinburgh**  
[www.bilingualism-matters.org.uk](http://www.bilingualism-matters.org.uk)



## What is Gaelic Medium Education? Dè tha ann am Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig?

Gaelic Medium Education (GME) is a tried and tested way of ensuring that children learn and communicate in Gaelic.

GME gives children an opportunity to learn Gaelic in the most natural way possible as the language is being absorbed through their learning.

Pupils in GME follow the same curriculum as those in English medium and are taught the same subjects

Initially reading and writing is established in Gaelic and later in both languages

GME is available to children from Gaelic and non-Gaelic speaking homes.



## WHAT WE THINK OF GAELIC MEDIUM EDUCATION AR BEACHDAN AIR FOGHLAM TRO MHEADHAN NA GÀIDHLIG

### PARENTS PÀRANTAN

*“Bilingualism gives children another window on the world, greater dexterity in multi-tasking and offers them greater ability to learn other languages and develop other skills.”*

*Erica*

*“Since making the decision to put our children through GME we haven’t looked back and my three children have thrived. There is plenty of help for parents out there, and the teachers are very keen to help also!”*

*Donna*

*“I continue to be amazed at how quickly they are learning Gaelic. They are like wee sponges at that age!”*

*Mandy*

*“Too good an opportunity to give up, broadening your child’s horizons and exposing them to another language and the benefits that brings and of course accessing a priceless culture*

*Fiona*

### TEACHERS TIDSEARAN

*“I find it extremely rewarding and enriching to hear young pupils speaking Gaelic as they do so quite naturally after a few months in primary one. It is wonderful to feel that I have in a small way helped them on their incredible language journey.”*

*Primary Gaelic Teacher*

*It’s such a privilege to teach Gaelic. It’s far more than just a language; it’s a culture, a history and a way of life that is truly unique and should be preserved. I have had the pleasure of teaching pupils who have forged*

*successful careers in the Gaelic world and I am proud to have played a part in their education.*

*Secondary Gaelic Teacher*

### PRIMARY PUPILS SGOILEARAN BUN-SGOILE

*“Gaelic medium is great, I’ve got 2 languages, most people only have one”*

*Mairi*

*“It’s fun. Everything we do in class is in Gaelic!”*

*Sandy*

### SECONDARY PUPILS SGOILEARAN ÀRD-SGOILE

*“I’ve had so many opportunities through GME right the way from primary through to secondary. On a recent school trip to Canada it was wonderful to meet up with fellow Gaelic speakers, who although living on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, have very similar lives and outlooks to us. I feel that having two languages will be of great benefit to me in later years.*

*Eilidh*

