**Dunoon Grammar School**

# Gaelic (Gàidhlig) Rationale and Priorities for 2023-2025

Dunoon Grammar School is committed to supporting the ongoing development of the Gaelic language amongst Gaelic Medium pupils increasing the provision of Gaelic Learners across the school.

We currently have a 1.0 FTE Teacher of Gaelic post. We teach Gaelic Medium pupils across S1-S6. These young people are either those who have transitioned to us from Sandbank Primary’s Gaelic Medium Unit or pupils from other immersive learning environments. Following the succession of an S1 Gaelic Electives class that took place during the S1 English Department’s Reading period, a brand new Gaelic Learners Class is now offered to the full S2 cohort as their 4th additional language.

With reference to both the national and local policies, namely the National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-2025 as well as Argyll and Bute’s Gaelic Language Plan, our own identified priorities for 2023-2025 are as follows:

* Ensuring transitions are continually strengthened each year between Sandbank Gaelic Medium Unit and Dunoon Grammar School making use of the physical and digital environments;
* To continue to provide the highest quality learning experiences to young people across all year groups;
* To continue to develop a learning pathways for new learners of Gaelic starting from S1;
* To increase the amount of opportunities where our young people can learn beyond the classroom via links with external partners as well as through extra-curricular opportunities, for example through visitations, sporting activities and the provision of trips;
* To further promote the skills and talents of our young people, showcasing their hard work and commitment within DGS, the local community and wider Gaelic community;
* To ensure DGS promotes the Gaelic language, allowing for its value to be understood and shared by all within our learning environment as well as within the local community. This includes providing opportunities for new learners of the Gaelic language.

**References to the** **National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2023: Pages 32-33**

* Our clear view is that Gaelic education makes an important contribution to the aim of increasing the numbers of those speaking, using and learning the language. Gaelic education also contributes to other areas of Gaelic activity and interest, such as the arts and the economy. We are, therefore, clear that with Gaelic education the momentum needs to be maintained and increased;
* Our review of current initiatives also brings us to the conclusion that there are a range of priorities that need to be pursued. These have been categorised under the headings of increasing the use of Gaelic, increasing the learning of Gaelic and promoting a positive image of Gaelic.

**References to the Argyll and Bute Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2022: Page 15**

* Carrying out initiatives to promote, establish and expand both GME and GLE at primary and secondary level;
* Ensuring adequate attention is given to the recruitment, retention, education, support and development of GME and GLE teachers;
* Providing a range of opportunities for young people in both the GME and GLE to engage in activities that enhance their Gaelic skills through greater use;
* Ensuring that steps are taken to secure the quality of both GME and GLE through National Guidance and other means;
* Supporting access to, and participation in, a range of Gaelic learning opportunities for adults e.g. CPD opportunities for staff;
* Accessing resources to support adults learning Gaelic.

**Initiatives in Addition to Day to Day Teaching and Learning this Session 2023 - 2025**

**Throughout the session:**

* A priority for our post-Covid recovery planning is a focus on language progression. We will continue to address this through a range of approaches such as engagement with the National e-Learning Offer, e-Sgoil DYW Live offer, work with external partners and the wider Gaelic community.
* We will continue to utilise the Gaelic Medium House Class that provides a unique daily opportunity for GM pupils to converse in Gaelic.
* We have continued to strengthen our transition work between Sandbank Primary’s Gaelic Medium Unit and Dunoon Grammar School through collaborative working including working in partnership to devise bespoke transition opportunities for Gaelic Medium pupils and maintain professional dialogue to ensure a shared understanding of the standards in relation to Progress and Achievement.
* Our transition links between Sandbank Primary School will be strengthened further through work experience which has established for Senior Pupils who regularly visit GME classes and who run our weekly Gaelic Youth Club, Sradagan.
* From August 2021, we were able to offer National 5 Gaelic Learners through partnership with E-Sgoil.
* Continued provision of opportunities to attend Festival/Mòd/ FilmG
* Gaelic Mainstream Pupil Notices have been introduced in both mainstream House classes and Gaelic House class.
* Senior support through provision of e-Sgoil and supported study sessions were offered.
* Continued IDL to be organised with a variety of departments to increase pupils awareness of the Gaelic Language
* Daily running of the our Department Instagram @dgsgaidhlig and our new TikTok account to bring a modern perspective of the benefits of the Gaelic Language and to share pupils achievements with parents.

**Term 1 (August to October 2023):**

* New Gaelic Learners Provision Pathways to be continued from S1 Gaelic Elective Class to a timetabled S2 Gaelic Learners Class. This will continue with the present cohort as they reach Senior Phase and are eligible for presentation of SQA exams.
* Creation of the S2 Gaelic Learners Curriculum in conjunction with the Health and Wellbeing Department to embed collaboration with other Gaelic speaking staff members.
* All secondary classes, both immersive and for learners, had the opportunity to write a script and further develop their creativity skills via the creation of a film production for the annual Film G competition.
* Collaboration with partners such as Sabhal Mòr Ostaig with visitations of experts of the topics studied within the BGE curriculum.
* Offering of the new apprentice courses in Social Work and Young People and Gaelic in Media to be offered to Senior S5/ S6 pupils to build a network of future pathways for young people.
* Continued collaboration with E-Sgoil on new courses they are advertising.
* Gaelic Reps will be established across the school, involving all Gaelic Learners, who will continue to encourage the use of Gaelic in day to day activities and to raise the Gaelic profile across the school Pupils also to be involved in extra-curricular opportunities throughout the session.
* Collaboration with the Social Enterprise Academy where BGE pupils participate in the National Gaelic Dragon’s Den Course.
* Social Enterprise Academy to host an initial workshop to provide pupils of knowledge of a social enterprise and introduction into the new Dragon’s Den Course.

**Term 2 (October to December 2023):**

* Parental Engagement to be reinforced by the organisation of a termly parental evening to discuss forward plans and the offering of the Gaelic curriculum.
* Involvement with FilmG to provide pupils with experience in media techniques and collaboration with other year groups and outside partners.
* Provision of a FilmG related awards ceremony to raise the profile of Gaidhlig in the school and celebrate pupil achievements.
* Involvement in World Education Week to represent the Gaidhlig community within the school and raise awareness of Gaidhlig outwith the school.
* Collaboration with the Social Enterprise Academy where BGE pupils participate in the National Gaelic Dragon’s Den Course.
* Regular after school and lunchtime supported study sessions to be offered to Senior Pupils to allow them to prepare for their examinations.
* Senior Pupils to attend the Scottish National Gaelic Debate in Stornoway to develop their public speaking, confidence and team building skills.

**Term 3 (January to March 2024):**

* A film premier to be held within DGS and another within the local community. All entries submitted into the Film G competition made by Dunoon Grammar School and the Sandbank GME Unit will be shown with an update on where both schools came in the competition, therefore promoting the Gaelic culture beyond the learning environment.
* Celebration of Say a Gaelic Phrase Day which promoted learning a phrase in Gaelic to non-Gaelic speakers. Both pupils and staff will be involved from across the school will be involved in celebrating this day both in school and on social media. Gaelic Reps to take the lead.
* Celebration of Gaelic T-Shirt Day including a whole-school competition to raise funds for future trips. T-Shirt competition to be submitted to World Gaelic Week competition to show support of wider- Gaelic initiatives.
* Organisation of events related to World Gaelic Week to celebrate Gaelic and to provide Gaidhlig pupils the opportunity to share and celebrate Gaelic throughout the school. This celebration will involve House time activities and quizzes, and multiple IDL events.
* During World Gaelic Week, pupils will be involved in the organisation of local community events such as the monthly coffee morning in a local café, the FilmG red-carpet event with Sandbank Primary in the Burgh Hall, Bookbug session in Argyll Libraries and Gaelic book display in local bookshop.
* Collaboration with other Gaelic Schools from other councils to build relationships during World Gaelic Week.

**Term 4 (May to June 2024):**

* In June, a selection of S2 Gaelic Learners classes, will have the opportunity to visit Islay for a week where they will engage in a range of activities both with the aim to develop their language skills but also to increase enjoyment of language learning as well as promoting the culture and heritage of the Gaelic language. This will be in conjunction with Health and Wellbeing Department.
* Educational trip to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to be organised every 2 years for an immersive experience within the Gaelic community. Pupils will participate in a range of activities where they will be immersed in a Gaelic Environment, learn about future pathways which can be offered to them following Secondary School and meet other Gaelic speakers across Scotland.
* A 2-day excursion to be organised with Spòrs Gàidhlig as part of our P7 transition with Sandbank Primary School.
* Linking with our Gaelic Early Years Provision in our local community, an afternoon with S3 pupils, our Gaelic Toddler Group and our Learning Centre will be organised to spark conversation and highlight the benefits of Gaelic Medium Education to parents and carers.
* External Partner visits with Bord na Gaidhlig, Sabhal Mòr Osaig, Astar, Police Scotland to be organised to allow pupils to see the opportunities Gaelic can offer in a variety of jobs.