

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



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BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG MISNEACHAIL LE ADHARTAS FOGHLAIM

07 An Dàmhair 2010

Bhon chaidh an athaisg Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig fhoillseachadh leis a' Bhòrd grunn mhìosan air ais, thathas air a bhith an coluadar le buidhnean Gàidhlig mun dòigh san gabh na h-amasan anns an athaisg coileanadh. Thuirt Mgr MacCarraig: "Le bhith a' cur an gnìomh Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig chan eil sinn a' cur air cùl ri na molaidhean farsaing anns a' Phlana Nàiseanta. Bidh sinn fhathast a' togail inbhe agus ìomhaigh na Gàidhlig, a' toirt taic do na h-ealan Gàidhlig, do rannsachadh agus do dh'fhoghlam aig àrd ìre tro na colaistean agus oilthighean a tha a' dèanamh obair air leth feumail. Ach tha Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig ag amas gu sònraichte air leasachaidhean ann an trì roinnean deatamach: Foghlam ro-sgoile; Cothroman ionnsachaidh do dh'inbich agus Foghlam anns na sgoiltean. Feumaidh sinn a-nise compàirteachasan èifeachdach a chur air dòigh airson foghlam Gàidhlig leudachadh aig gach ìre."

Thuirt an Cathraiche gum biodh am Bòrd for-ghnìomach agus dèanadach anns na raointean sin. Chaidh sgioba foghlaim a' Bhùird a neartachadh le Oifigear Trusadh Luchd-teagaisg agus Oifigear Leasachaidh Foghlaim mar tha, agus bidh Leasaiche ùr Foghlaim aca a dh'aithghearr air ceann an sgioba.

Thuirt Mgr MacCarraig: "Tha mi airson a bhith soilleir nach eil sinn idir a' cur cùl ris na buidhnean ionadail a tha ag obair gu cruaidh ann am foghlam ro-sgoile, ged tha cuid a' cumail a-mach gu bheil. Tha sinn mothachail air na daoine saor-thoileach a tha a' ruith croileagan agus a' togail àireamhan chloinne - a' mhòr chuid a bhios a' dol air adhart gu foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Tha feum air taic nas fhèarr airson na roinne chudromach seo le barrachd chloinne a' dol a-steach dha na buidhnean agus seirbheis nas fheàrr a bhith aig pàrantan airson foghlam ro-sgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a dhèanamh nas tarraingiche dhaibh. Bidh bunait againn an uair sin àireamhan a leudachadh aig ìre bunsgoiltean agus àrd-sgoiltean, far a bheil barrachd chuspairean tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a dhìth air stèidh nas fheàrr."

Thug an Cathraiche cuideachd gun robh fios ann gu bheil corra àite ann far a bheil clasaichean ann le àireamhan miannach beag a ghabhadh lìonadh gun chosgais sam bith a bharrachd agus thuirt e: "Cha bu chòir foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a bhith a' cosg barrachd do dh'ughdarrasan ionadail ach far a bheil ionad ùr air a stèidheachadh le àireamh

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beag chloinne an toiseach,” thuirt e. “Cho luath ‘sa tha àireamhan chloinne ann an clasaichean Gàidhlig co-ionnan ris na h-àireamhan ann an clasaichean Beurla, bu chòir dha na cosgaisean a bhith an ìre mhath co-ionnan. Feumaidh an Sgeama Tabhartasan Sònraichte sam àm ri teachd a bhith air a cleachdadh airson tuilleadh leudachaidh a dhèanamh agus dleastanas air comhairlean clann fhoghlamachadh anns a’ Ghàidhlig no anns a’ Bheurla.

Dhainginich an Cathraiche beachd a’ Bhùird gu bheil feum air an àireamh de sgoiltean Gàidhlig àrdachadh bho dhà gu sia. “Tha sin gu math follaiseach mar amas aig a’ Bhòrd ann an Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig agus tha sinn gu math mothachail air an t-suidheachadh eaconamach. Chan ann a-mhain mu dheidhinn àireamhan luchd-labhairt àrdachadh a tha na h-amasan sin. Tha sinn cuideachd ag iarraidh sùil a chumail air an ìre de dh’fhileantachd a tha clann a ruighinn, agus sin a neartachadh. Feumaidh sinn coimhead air dè tha foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a’ ciallachadh airson bun-stèidh a thoirt do dh’ùghdarrasan ionadail agus do na sgoiltean fhèin air na toraidhean a bhitheamaid a’ suileachadh bhuaithe.”

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BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG OPTIMISTIC ON PROGRESS IN GAELIC EDUCATION

07 October 2010

The Bòrd is undertaking a series of discussions with Gaelic organisations about the delivery of Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig (The New Generation of Gaelic Speakers) – its plan to increase the number of people speaking the language. Mr Cormack said: “Implementing Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig, we continue to actively promote Gaelic, supporting the language through the arts, research and Higher Education, where our colleges and universities are performing at a very high level. Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig focuses on three key areas: Pre-school education; Opportunities for adult learning and Education in schools. We must engage in effective partnerships which enable the number of people speaking Gaelic to grow in all areas.”

Mr Cormack stressed that the Bòrd is being proactive in these areas. Its education team has already been strengthened through the appointment of a Teacher Recruitment Officer and an Education Development Officer, with appointment of a new Leasaiche Foghlaim (Head of Education) due soon.

Mr Cormack added: “I want to make it abundantly clear that, despite some suggestions to the contrary, the Bòrd will continue to support the hard work being done at a local level by voluntary groups in pre-school provision right across Scotland. We greatly appreciate the work done in a voluntary capacity by people running playgroups, and their significant contribution to increasing the numbers moving into Gaelic education at primary school level. However, there is a need to offer more support in these areas and to offer a better service to parents so that Gaelic education will become an increasingly attractive option for them. We are taking forward this work which will then give us a solid foundation on which to build and secure the future of Gaelic in primary and secondary schools, where more subjects being taught through the language is a key area which requires development.”

On future expansion of Gaelic education, Mr Cormack said there were a number of areas, where there was capacity for growth in existing classes at no extra cost and that “Gaelic education should not cost local authorities any more except where they are establishing new units at the very outset, with small numbers. Once the numbers attending Gaelic units are the same as those in English classes, costs in both should be similar. The Scheme of Specific Grants for Gaelic Education needs to be focussed, in the future, on targets to

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increase pupil numbers with ongoing long-term provision being met by councils which have a duty to educate children, whether in Gaelic or in English.”

Mr Cormack also stated it was the Bòrd’s view that the success of the current two standalone Gaelic schools in Glasgow and Inverness points to the need to expand that number to a minimum of six nationally. “That is the Bòrd’s stated aim in Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig and we are fully aware of the current economic climate. The aims are not solely about increasing numbers of Gaelic speakers. We also want to improve levels of fluency and this has to be a continuous progress. We should examine what exactly we mean by ‘Gaelic medium education’ to give local authorities and the schools themselves a more solid base from which to develop their work to achieve the outcomes we should expect from it.”