

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



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Bòrd na Gàidhlig son meud chlasaichean Gàidhlig a steidheachadh

01 An t-Iuchar 2010

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air iarraidh gun tèid an àireamh de sgoilearan a tha ann an clasaichean Bun-sgoile P1 ann am foghlam tro meadhan na Gàidhlig a’ steidheachadh aig 15 aig a’ char as àirde.

Ann a bhith a’ toirt beachd air co-chomhairleachadh air molaidhean meud clasaichean P1 a’ steidheachadh aig 25, thuirt Arthur MacCarraig, Cathraiche Bòrd na Gàidhlig: “Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig airson obrachadh còmhla ri comhairlean-ionadail agus buidhnean eile gus àireamhan luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig àrdachadh, mar a chaidh fhoillseachadh anns a’ phlana gnìomh ùr againn Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig. Tha a bhith ag àrdachadh nan àireamhan chloinne a tha a’ dol tro foghlam Gàidhlig mar phàirt cudromach den ro-innleachd seo.”

“Ged a tha na comhairlean-ionadail air oidhirp gus an àireamh tidsearan gu sgoilearan a chumail iosal ann an clasaichean bogaidh airson dèanamh cinnteach gum bi Gàidhlig ga ionnsachadh, tha barrachd is barrachd chomhairlean a’ feuchainn ri àireamhan thidsearan is sgoilearan a chothromachadh airson sàbhaladh a dhèanamh. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ creidsinn gum bi droch bhuidh aig seo air na co-dhùnaidhean a nì pàrantan air an cuid cloinne a chur tro foghlam tro meadhan na Gàidhlig. Tha e soilleir nach bi seo cuideachail airson àireamhan àrdachadh.”

Tha freagairt Bòrd na Gàidhlig cuideachd ag ràdh gun fheum pàrantan a bhith mothachail air cho soirbheachail sa tha sgoilearan a chaidh tro Fhoghlam Gàidhlig. Tha e fìor air feadh an t-saoghal gu bheil clann a tha dà-chànanach a’ dèanamh nas fheàrr na an fheadhainn aig a bheil dìreach aon chànan. Tha fianais ann gu bheil seo a’ tachairt le clann a tha a’ dol tro foghlam Gàidhlig ann an Alba. Chan eil fianais ann gu bheil na sgilean cànan Beurla a’ fulang ann an dòigh sam bith, mar sin chan eil adhbhar ann do phàrantan gun foghlam tro meadhan na Gàidhlig a thaghadh airson an cuid cloinne.

Thuirt Mgr MacCarraig: “Tha am bogaidh ann am foghlam tro meadhan na Gàidhlig cudromach airson dèanamh cinnteach gum bi sgilean fileantach aig a’ chlann. An dràsta, tha a mhòr-chuid de aonadan Gàidhlig agus sgoiltean a’ moladh gum bi clann air am bogaidh airson co-dhiù trì bliadhna. Tha e aithnichte gu bheil tidsearan a tha a’ teagasg cànan ùr dha sgoilearan, gu math tric gun taic, obrachadh nas cruaidhe na tidsearan a tha a’ teagasg clann aig a bheil Beurla mu tèid iad dhan sgoil. Ged a chaidh mòran a dhèanamh airson goireasan

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Gàidhlig a’ leudachadh, tha barrachd ri fhaighinn ann am Beurla. Tha seo a’ ciallachadh gu bheil aig tidsearan Gàidhlig goireasan a chruthachadh dhaibh pèin, goireasan a tha ri fhaighinn ann am Beurla mu thràth.”

Tha Bòrd an Gàidhlig a’ creidsinn gum bu chòir meud chlasaichean ann am foghlam tro meadhan na Gàidhlig a bhith stèidhte aig ìre nas ìsle airson dèanamh cinnteach gum bi deagh fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ga thabhann.”

Crioch

Notaichean

Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig

Tha Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig a’ cur taic ri Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig 2007-12 agus ri riatanasan Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005, ag ath-phrìomhachadh ghoireasan agus ghnìomhan gus meudachadh air togail cànan a thoirt gu buil mean air mhean.

Tha Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig ag ath-aithris cho cudromach ’s a tha foghlam tron Ghàidhlig. Tha e ag aithris gu bheil “Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ creidsinn gum feum ùghdarrasan ionadail àireamhan sgoilearan a mheudachadh ann am foghlam ro-sgoile agus clasaichean Prìomh 1 gu ìre 15% sa bhliadhna; bidh a leithid sin de mheudachadh deatamach ma thathar a’ dol a choileanadh targaidean 2021 a tha comharraichte ann am Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig”.

Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu ghnòthach sam bith an luib an naidheachd seo, cuiribh fòn gu Shona Sloan, Manaidsear Corporra & Conaltraidh, shona@gaidhlig.org.uk, 07500099394 no gu Uisdean MacIllInnein air 0751 528 67040

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Bòrd na Gàidhlig calls for maximum class size in Gaelic Medium Education

01 July 2010

Not for use before Friday 02 July 2010

Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the main organisation leading Gaelic Development, has called for the establishment of a setting the maximum class size of 15 pupils in Primary 1 Gaelic Medium Education (GME) classes.

Responding to the formal consultation on proposals to reduce P1 class sizes to a maximum of 25.

Arthur Cormack, Cathraiche (Chairman) Bòrd na Gàidhlig stated: “Bòrd na Gàidhlig wants to work with local authorities, and others, to increase the number of speakers of Gaelic, as outlined in our recently-published action plan, Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig. An increase in numbers of children in GME is one essential part of our strategy.”

“While local authorities have endeavoured to ensure that immersion classes have a lower than average teacher to pupil ratio in order to facilitate effective Gaelic learning at the early stages, more recently some local authorities have been applying what they term ‘mainstream’ teacher to pupil ratios to GME in order to achieve savings. Bòrd na Gàidhlig believes that this could have a detrimental effect on the linguistic competence, in Gaelic, of pupils and could affect the confidence of parents when deciding whether or not to enrol their children in GME. This would clearly be unhelpful in our drive to increase numbers.”

Bòrd na Gàidhlig’s response goes on to point out that parents need to be alert to the success of Gaelic medium pupils and their generally higher attainment levels in relation to their monolingual counterparts. It has been established that across the world bilingual children tend to perform better in school than those who are monolingual, and there is evidence to suggest that this is the case in relation to children educated in Gaelic in Scotland. There is no evidence to suggest that their English language skills are in any way impaired. There are no obvious disadvantages for parents in choosing a Gaelic education for their children.

Mr Cormack added: “The immersion phase in GME is absolutely critical for laying the foundations for Gaelic fluency and competence. At present, most GME units and schools endorse a three year minimum immersion phase to provide the best conditions for pupils to

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acquire the language and develop skills necessary to access their curriculum through, what for most, is their second language. It is recognised that a Gaelic medium teacher immersing pupils in a language new to them, often without Gaelic speaking support staff, has a more difficult task than a teacher who is teaching pupils already fluent in English before they come to school. Although much work has been done to improve the resources in Gaelic medium education, and we have some excellent quality resources now, they are still not equal in number to those available to an English language class. This means that classroom teachers often have to produce Gaelic resources for themselves that would be taken for granted by an English language classroom teacher.

“ Bòrd na Gàidhlig believes that keeping class sizes smaller in the early stages of GME is one way to help ensure a good quality education in Gaelic.”

Ends

Notes

Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig

Ginealach Ùr Na Gàidhlig supports the National Plan for Gaelic 2007-12 and the requirements of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, reprioritising resources and actions to support an incremental increase in learning and using Gaelic.

Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig is equally clear about the importance of Gaelic medium education. It states that “Bòrd na Gàidhlig believes that local authorities must increase pupil numbers in local authority pre-school and in P.1 classes by 15% per annum; such increases will be essential if the 2021 targets identified in the National Plan for Gaelic are to be achieved”.

For more information on this news release contact Shona Sloan, Communications Manager, shona@gaidhlig.org.uk, 07500099394, or 01463 225454