

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Brath Naidheachd
Press Release



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Litir bho Ceannard Bhòrd na Gàidhlig dhan Inverness Courier *Beurla a-mhàin*

18 An t-Iuchar 2011

The Editor

Inverness Courier

Dear Sir

Your Leader article on 8 July regarding the call for a second Gaelic school in Inverness raised a number of issues which will require further debate and resolution. You rightly point to the success of Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis - the Inverness Gaelic Primary School - and the pressure this puts on current facilities. The children educated in this environment do well in school subjects and have additional advantages that bilingualism brings. As Inverness grows, and the benefits of educating children through the medium of Gaelic have become more widely known, parental demand for places in the school has grown and it is now near capacity having already been extended.

Local Authorities have by law to take cognisance of parental wishes, but they are supported financially by Government to help in these circumstances, which, taken with the educational benefits, gives Highland Council good value for money.

With regard to the costs of school transport for Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis the actual figure we have from Highland Council is not the £260,000 quoted in your article but £77,600. In the context of the £12.131 million spent by Highland Council, this is just 0.6% of the schools transport budget and is, we understand, the second lowest transport cost per pupil of seven Inverness Primary Schools.

The Highland Council has chosen to make Gaelic medium provision in certain centres only. Providing transport is a cheaper option than making Gaelic medium education available in every locality where parents might wish it. Establishing a second Gaelic primary school in Inverness may reduce transport costs in the long term if it means that some pupils will not require transport to the current school.

I hope this information helps the debate on the future of Gaelic Education in Inverness.

Yours faithfully

John A MacKay

Ceannard