Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) Coinneamh

Dimàirt 19 Cèitean 2026/Tuesday 19 May 2026
19:30
Air-loidhne/Online

<u>Geàrr-Chunntas</u>

1. Fàilte
   Weclome

An làthair
Sarah Thomas
Helen MacKinnon
Martainn Mac a' Bhailidh
Joanne MacKenzie
Hollie Souter
Gwen Cluberston
Katrina Laurie
Wilma Laird
Arleen Cameron
Kirsteen Murray
Magaidh Wentworth

2. Leisgeulan
   Apologies

3. Geàrr—chunntas na Coinneimh 27 Foilleach 2026
   Minutes of the meeting 27 January 2026
   Propose – Wilma Laird
   Second – Sarah Thomas

4. Fios as ùr bho Chomann nam Pàrant
   Update from Comann nam Pàrant

5. Fios as ùr bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig
   Update from Bòrd na Gàidhlig

- Secondary education research: Discussion around the recommendations from the recent research. A short-life working group is being considered to look specifically at retention and recruitment. Jim Whannel and Wilson MacLeod are continuing to meet and provide advice to local authorities on the findings and recommendations.
- Early years survey: Bòrd na Gàidhlig received 80 responses to its early years survey. There is a particular focus on creating more opportunities for families with Gaelic in the home.
- Early years funding is currently open.
- Gaelic Language Plan Fund: More local authorities are beginning to work together, which is a positive development. This fits with the wider context of public sector reform and bringing resources together.
- Borders: Bòrd na Gàidhlig is involved in developments relating to Gaelic provision in the Borders.

6. Cuspairean sam bith a tha ag èirigh aig ìre ionadail
   Any issues arising in local areas

Stirling

- There is staffing concerns with one GME teacher being off on maternity leave and a concern that one will be without a GME teacher. Parents were not aware of any attempt to recruit a replacement.

Highland

- Decline in Gaelic-medium provision at Portree High was raised as a concern. Recruitment of English-speaking teachers is resulting in a loss of subject specialism.
- The Head of Gaelic is retiring, raising further concerns about continuity and leadership.
- The impact of teacher retention was discussed as well as staff planning.
- Comann nam Pàrant has met with Kate Forbes and the Head of Primary School at Highland Council, but very little action appears to have been taken forward.
- Question raised about whether staff from other parts of the education system, e.g. primary, could be encouraged to move into secondary Gaelic provision.
- It was suggested that Gaelic teaching posts should be classified as hard-to-recruit posts, recognising the particular challenges around recruiting Gaelic-speaking teachers.
- Gaelic medium education requires additional posts/resources to facilitate and sustain provision.

Lochaline

- A teacher has been appointed and is due to start in August.
- The class will have six pupils.

Dùn Èideann

- Concern was raised about the change in timing of the Higher Gaelic exam. The exam was moved much earlier in the exam diet, with a 12.30pm start. There was a concern from a parent felt that their child was disadvantaged by the timing and the noise

outside the exam room. This was contrasted with the English exam, which was held at 9.00am.

Taobh na Pàirce

- Numbers are currently sitting at around 80 pupils in C1.
- Recruitment appears to be generally positive, with the main issues relating to early years staffing.

Glasgow

- The number starting C1 is lower than in previous years. The cap introduced is continuing to have an impact, with lower numbers enrolling in GME as a lasting consequence.