COMHAIRLE na GÀIDHEALTACHD

Proposal to Permanently relocate Plockton Primary School to the Plockton High School campus.

Comann nam Pàrant is the national parental organisation who represent the views of families in Gaelic medium education.

The Gaelic Medium catchment for Plockton PS overlays the current English Medium catchments of Plockton Primary School, Kyle of Lochalsh Primary School, Kyleakin Primary School, Auchtertyre Primary School, and Loch Duich Primary School so this proposal is significant for Gaelic medium education for an extensive area of Lochalsh.

The proposal includes the following as an educational benefit:
"Co-location within the campus has strengthened delivery of Gaelic Medium Education by providing more suitable accommodation and supporting continuity and progression for learners"

It is encouraging that there has been substantial growth in Gaelic education in Plockton Primary with 33 pupils now in GME and 8 in EME. Any changes to the provision should be mindful of this and all efforts made to ensure that this trend continues. This may include consideration of the designation of Plockton Primary as a Gaelic school. A designated Gaelic school within the Lochalsh area would also recognise that the school provides Gaelic education for the wider area not only the Plockton Primary catchment.

With a permanent location of the primary school to the Plockton High School campus school leadership must ensure that pupils in GME are able to continue with total immersion in Gaelic within the environment of a larger mainly English medium school. A strong bilingual ethos throughout the High School and a strengthening of the Gaelic medium secondary curriculum will support pupils' linguistic development.

Relocation to the High School has shortened travelling distances for some GME pupils coming from out with the Plockton area as well as simplifying travel for the pupils with no change of buses to negotiate. We hope that this will make GME an attractive educational option for an increasing number of families.

We note that the early years provision will continue in the primary school building and that there will be improvements to the accommodation as well as the possibility of increasing capacity and extending the service. Access to Gaelic provision in the early years has many benefits in immersion education and we hope that 0-3 provision will be considered as part of new developments. Regular interaction between the sgoil-àraich and primary school will support transition between these stages of education.

We have been contacted by some parents who have expressed some concerns regarding the proposal. We attended the consultation meeting on Monday 28th September when some of these concerns were put to officials from Highland Council. It seems that much

of the discord surrounding the proposal has stemmed from the minimal information provided in the consultation document and we are pleased that this has been addressed through the recent options appraisal.

M Wentworth
28.10.26