

**Submission from Mary MacMillan, Leasaiche Foghlam (Head of Education) ,
Bòrd na Gàidhlig**

Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes Scottish Government proposals for children in Primary Schools to learn 1+2 Languages.

Scottish Gaelic is already used as a medium of instruction for @2500 children in 14 Local Authorities.

In its report on Gaelic Education in 2011 HMIE stated that Gaelic medium Education has the potential to become an international model for best practice in the promotion of minority languages across Europe.

Children educated in Gaelic medium education are immersed in Gaelic language at the early and first level of Curriculum for Excellence. The children will also speak English as English is readily accessible and part of everyday life in Scotland. In P4 English language is introduced through the medium of Gaelic. In some Gaelic-medium schools an additional language is introduced at P4 and another language at P6. Children in Gaelic medium education have the opportunity of experiencing a 2+2 Languages model. Therefore when children transfer to secondary education they will be fluent in 2 languages and may have some experience of another 2 languages.

The underpinning principles of Curriculum for Excellence promote challenge, breadth and depth all of which can be experienced through the languages experiences of Gaelic medium education. The benefits of bilingualism are well documented and research show that children educated in Gaelic medium education are on par with or outperform children educated in one language. Research also shows that children educated in Gaelic medium education tend to be better at English reading than children taught in one language.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig would be very willing to provide more information and to be involved in further discussion to assist the enquiry.

More information on our remit and activities is available at www.gaidhlig.org.uk and related web sites.