

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development, including providing advice to Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues.

Our aim is that Gaelic is seen and heard on a daily basis across Scotland, such that it is widely recognised as an integral part of Scottish life and a national cultural and economic asset.

What is a Children's Rights Report?

A children's rights report sets out the work an organisation has taken to ensure that children's rights have been protected under the UNCRC. The Children and young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires a range of public bodies to publish a report every 3 years.

What is the UNCRC?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a legally-binding international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities.

There UNCRC contains 54 articles which can be condensed into clusters:

- general measures of implementation
- definition of a child
- general principles of the UNCRC
- civil rights and freedoms
- violence against children
- family environment and alternative care
- basic health and welfare
- education, leisure, and culture
- special protection measures

Some of these clusters apply to the work of some public bodies more than others. Bòrd na Gàidhlig do not directly provide services to children and therefore for the purposes of reporting we have grouped these clusters into four themes:

- Survival
- Development
- Participation
- Protection

Survival – *You have a right to life, good food, water, and to grow up healthy*

Corporate Parent

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is legally designated as a Corporate Parent under The Children and Young Peoples (Scotland) Act 2014. This means that we have statutory duties to fulfil with regard to care experienced young people. As a Corporate Parent, Bòrd na Gàidhlig has a duty to:

- Give due consideration to matters which might or might not adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people.
- To assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides.

- To promote the interests of those children and young people.
- To seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig staff and board members all receive Corporate Parenting training to ensure that everyone within the organisation is equipped with the skills to put our responsibilities into practice.

All organisations and projects who receive funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig must give consideration to and report on how they will support the aims outlined in the Children and Young Peoples (Scotland) Act.

Development – *You have a right to an education and time to relax and play*

Under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act) Bòrd na Gàidhlig has a duty to prepare and submit to Scottish Ministers a national Gaelic language plan every five years. **The National Gaelic Language Plan 2018 – 2023 identifies** commitments in several areas which help support children to reach their full potential, including:

- Gaelic Education including Early Learning and Childcare, Primary and Secondary Provision
- Initiatives which support the use of Gaelic by young people
- Initiatives which support families to use Gaelic with their children

Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education

The Statutory Guidance has been issued by Bòrd na Gàidhlig under Section 9 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and consists of two main parts. Part 1 provides Guidance specifically relating to the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 and its provisions for the Gaelic medium primary education (GMPE) request process and the duty placed on education authorities to promote and support Gaelic education. These provisions came into force on 1 February 2017. Part 2 provides further Guidance relating to the provision of Gaelic education in schools.

The duty on Local Authorities to promote and support Gaelic Education means that more children, young people and their parents / carers are aware that Gaelic Education is an option and is open to all.

The provisions within the Education (Scotland) Act 2016, for parents to request GMPE, in areas where it isn't currently available, goes some way to increasing the availability of GMPE so that it can be more accessible.

European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages

Bòrd na Gàidhlig also has a duty under the Act to monitor and report on actions relating to Gaelic under the European Charter. The Charter includes specific duties relating to Education and Bòrd na Gàidhlig provided evidence to the Committee of Experts on progress relating to education. The delivery of GME is a responsibility of local authorities rather than the Bòrd and we provided advice and support to authorities in the discharge of their duties.

Funding

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has several funding schemes where various organisations can apply to establish projects and initiatives which help to promote and support Gaelic. **Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd (Community Roots Support)** particularly supports projects which provide opportunities for young people to use and develop their Gaelic language skills in informal, fun settings outwith formal

education. The scheme also supports projects which focus on inter-generational language transmission and opportunities for families to participate in activities together. In partnership with Comann nam Pàrant, Bòrd na Gàidhlig also has a **Gaelic Early Years Scheme** which supports voluntary run Early Years groups with running costs. The Early Years groups offer an opportunity for parents / carers and young children to speak and learn Gaelic through games, stories and play.

Participation – *You have a right to say how you feel, be listened to, and taken seriously*

Although Bòrd na Gàidhlig do not directly provide services for children, we proactively engage with our delivery partners and organisations who receive funding to ensure that children's rights are actively considered in the planning and delivery of all projects.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig regularly consult with our stakeholders through public consultations which includes seeking views of children and their parents and carers.

In 2017 we carried out a consultation of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2023, this included a series of public face to face consultation events and through partnership working with organisations such as Comann nam Pàrant, parents and carers played an integral part to consultation responses.

Protection – *You have a right to be treated well and not be hurt by anyone*

Children and their parents / carers have the right to feel safe while participating in activities and Bòrd na Gàidhlig works with all our funded partners and projects to ensure this happens.

As a condition of funding, we require that delivery partners and supported projects designed for children meet national standards and include details of their Child Protection and or Safeguarding Policies.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig work closely with voluntary Early Years organisations and partners to promote and deliver training opportunities to play leaders and committee members to ensure Early Years groups provide a high quality, safe environment. An Early Years Toolkit is also available to all groups which provides details of policies and procedures which should be adopted and adhered to.

Next Steps

Bòrd na Gàidhlig will continue to develop the work we have carried out between 2017-2020 to ensure we meet and exceed our obligations in support the rights of children and young people.

We will explore the opportunity of how we can better consult directly with young people to seek their views and develop opportunities as a result.

We will work in partnership with Comann nam Pàrant to undertake Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments (CRWIA) on all relevant Early Years policies to ensure supported early years groups continue to provide high quality services and all groups will be encouraged to undertake UNCRC training.

We will increase the advice provided to Scottish Government and other public bodies on how to strengthen policy development and delivery to ensure the protection of the rights of Gaelic speaking children and the growth of the minority indigenous language in Scotland.

