



Geàrr-iris Rannsachaidh Shoillse 1

Soillse Research Digest 1

Language Models in Gaelic-medium Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education

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This briefing describes patterns of Gaelic and English language use in Gaelic-medium pre-school, primary school and secondary school providers in Scotland. Evidence is given on language use in the classroom and in other areas of the school environment. The project was funded by Soillse and the Scottish Government.

Context and background

Gaelic-medium education has developed within a policy framework which grants the local authority and the school flexibility with regard to Gaelic and English language use in teaching the curriculum and in communication around the school. There is thus the potential for a great deal of variation in Gaelic language use between Gaelic-medium education providers.

The definition of Gaelic-medium education also varies between pre-school, primary school and secondary school:

- In pre-school, the curricular advice is that 'teachers will ensure that Gàidhlig is the language of learning and communication, and that all areas of the curriculum are taught through the medium of Gàidhlig' (Learning and Teaching Scotland 2010, 2).
- In primary school, the curricular advice is that 'learning and teaching is wholly through Gàidhlig during the immersion phase from Primary 1 to Primary 3. English language is then gradually introduced through the medium of Gàidhlig, with Gàidhlig remaining the predominant language of the classroom in all areas of the curriculum [throughout the primary school stages]' (Learning and Teaching Scotland 2010, 3).

Modailean Cànan ann am Foghlam Ro-sgoile, Bun-sgoile agus Àrd-sgoile Meadhain-Ghàidhlig

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Tha a' bhileag fiosrachaidh seo a' toirt tuairisgeul air pàtran cleachdadh cànan Gàidhlig agus Beurla ann an solarachadh foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig aig ìre ro-sgoile, bun-sgoile agus àrd-sgoile ann an Alba. Tha fianais ann air cleachdadh cànan san t-seòmar-sgoile agus ann an àiteachan eile an àrainn na sgoile. Chaidh am pròiseact a mhaoineachadh le Soillse agus Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

Co-theacsa agus cùl-fhiosrachadh

Tha foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig air tighinn gu ìre ann am frèam poileasaidh a tha a' toirt cead don ùghdarras ionadail agus don sgoil co-dhùnadh ciamar a thèid Gàidhlig is Beurla a chleachdadh nuair a thathas a' teagasg a' churraicealaim agus a' dèanamh conaltradh air feadh na sgoile. Tha seo a' ciallachadh gum faod tòrr eadar-dhealachaidh a bhith ann a thaobh cleachdadh na Gàidhlig eadar diofar sholaraichean foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig.

Cuideachd, tha ciall eadar-dhealaichte aig an abairt foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig eadar ro-sgoil, bun-sgoil agus àrd-sgoil:

- Anns an ro-sgoil, is e comhairle a' churraicealaim gum bi 'luchd-teagaisg a' dèanamh cinnteach gur e Gàidhlig an cànan ionnsachaidh is conaltradh, agus gum bi a h-uile roinn den churraicealam ga teagasg tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig' (Ionnsachadh agus Teagasg Alba 2010, 2).
- Anns a' bhun-sgoil, is e comhairle a' churraicealaim gum bi 'ionnsachadh agus teagasg gu lèir tron Ghàidhlig anns an ìre bogaidh bho Prìomh 1 gu Prìomh 3. Thèid cànan na Beurla a thoirt a-steach mean air mheadhan tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, ach is e Gàidhlig an cànan as treasa san t-seòmar-sgoile anns gach roinn den churraicealam [air feadh gach ìre den bhun-sgoil]' (Ionnsachadh agus Teagasg Alba 2010, 3).

- In secondary school, the Scottish Government classification of Gaelic education for fluent speakers has two categories, distinguishing between 'Gaelic-medium education' and 'Gaelic the only subject taught through Gaelic' (Scottish Government 2011, Table 1.13). Therefore, any secondary school which provides at least one subject through the medium of Gaelic (in addition to Gàidhlig for fluent speakers) is classified as providing Gaelic-medium secondary education.

Aims of the Research

The intention of the research was:

- to provide policy makers with a more detailed understanding of Gaelic-medium education in practice;
- to inform parents about the language models employed in Gaelic-medium education, in order to help them decide whether to choose Gaelic-medium education;
- to inform teachers and headteachers of the language use practices in Gaelic-medium education nationally.

Data and methods

The evidence was gathered by means of a survey of all providers of Gaelic-medium pre-school and primary education, and of all providers of Gàidhlig as a secondary school subject, in the 2011-12 school year.

The survey indicated that, in the 2011-12 school year, there were 56 providers of Gaelic-medium pre-school education, 59 providers of Gaelic-medium primary education, and 33 providers of Gàidhlig as a subject for fluent speakers at secondary school level.

Of these, 82% of pre-schools, 80% of primary schools and 97% of secondary schools responded to the questionnaire.

The questionnaires asked respondents about language use in four main contexts associated with the school:

- in the classroom;
- in the school outside the classroom;
- in extra-curricular activities;
- in communication with parents.

The results are thus based on questionnaire respondents' reports of Gaelic language use in their educational setting.

- Anns an àrd-sgoil, tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba air foghlam Gàidhlig do dh'fhileantaich a sgaradh ann an dà earrann, a' dèanamh diofar eadar 'foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig' agus 'Gàidhlig an aon chuspair a tha ga theagasg tron Ghàidhlig' (Riaghaltas na h-Alba 2011, Clàr 1.13). Air an adhbhar sin, tha àrd-sgoil sam bith a tha a' libhrigeadh co-dhiù aon chuspair tron Ghàidhlig (a thuilleadh air Gàidhlig do dh'fhileantaich) air ainmeachadh mar solaraiche àrd-sgoile foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig.

Amasan an Rannsachaidh

B' e adhbhar an rannsachaidh:

- tuigse nas mionaidiche a thoirt do luchd-cruthachaidh poileasaidh air ciamar a tha foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig ag obair bho latha gu latha;
- fiosrachadh a thoirt do phàrantan air na modailean cànan a thathas a' cleachdadh ann am foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig, gus an cuideachadh a' co-dhùnadh an tagh iad foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig.
- fiosrachadh a thoirt do luchd-teagaisg agus ceannardan sgoile air cleachdaidhean cànan ann am foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig air feadh na dùthcha.

Dàta agus dòighean-obrach

Chaidh an fhianais a thional ann an suirbhìdh den h-uile solaraiche ann am foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig ro-sgoile is bun-sgoile, agus don h-uile solaraiche Gàidhlig mar chuspair àrd-sgoile anns a' bhliadhna sgoile 2011-12.

Sheall an suirbhìdh gu robh ann an Alba, anns a' bhliadhna sgoile 2011-12, 56 solaraiche ro-sgoile foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig, 59 solaraiche bun-sgoile foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig, agus 33 solaraiche Gàidhlig mar chuspair do dh'fhileantaich aig ìre na h-àrd-sgoile.

A-mach às na bha seo, fhreagair 82% de ro-sgoiltean, 80% de bhun-sgoiltean agus 97% de dh'àrd-sgoiltean an ceisteachan.

Dh'fhaighnich na ceisteachain mu chleachdadh cànan ann an ceithir prìomh cho-theacsaichean co-cheangailte ris an sgoil:

- san t-seòmair-sgoile;
- san sgoil taobh a-muigh an t-seòmair-sgoile;
- ann an gnothaichean taobh a-muigh na sgoile;
- ann an conaltradh ri pàrantan.

Tha na toraidhean, ma-thà, stèidhichte air tuairisgeulan luchd-freagairt a' cheisteachain air cleachdadh na Gàidhlig anns an àite far a bheil iad fhèin ag obair.

Analysis

Cluster analysis was used to identify groups of primary schools which had similar patterns of Gaelic language use in the curriculum. The characteristics of the primary school groups were then investigated in terms of the wider use of Gaelic in the schools, in extra-curricular activities and in communication with parents.

The analysis of the pre-school and secondary school Gaelic-medium provision showed the range and frequency of Gaelic language use in the various domains (in the classroom, in the school, in extra-curricular activities and in communication with parents).

Results

Pre-school (3-5 years)

1. Overall levels of Gaelic use when teaching the curriculum in pre-school settings are high (about 80%), though not as high as in the immersion phase in the first three stages of primary school.
2. In the less formal school domains of the playground, the corridors, etc, pupils in pre-school are reported to use less Gaelic than pupils at primary school, but adults in pre-school settings are reported to use more Gaelic than adults in primary schools.

The graph below shows reported language use between Gaelic-medium pupils and staff in pre-school settings when outside of the classroom:

Anailis

Chaidh anailis 'cluster' ùisneachadh airson buidhnean bhun-sgoiltean aithneachadh aig an robh pàtran co-ionnan de chleachdadh Gàidhlig anns a' churraicealam. An uair sin chaidh feartan nam buidhnean bun-sgoile a sgrùdadh a rèir cleachdadh na Gàidhlig san fharsaingeachd anns na sgoiltean, ann an gnìomhan taobh a-muigh nan sgoiltean agus ann an conaltradh ris na pàrantan.

Sheall an anailis air solar meadhain-Ghàidhlig ro-sgoile agus àrd-sgoile mar a bha meud agus bitheantas cleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an grunn shuidheachaidhean (san t-seòmair-sgoile, san sgoil, ann an gnothaichean taobh a-muigh na sgoile agus ann an conaltradh ri pàrantan).

Toraidhean

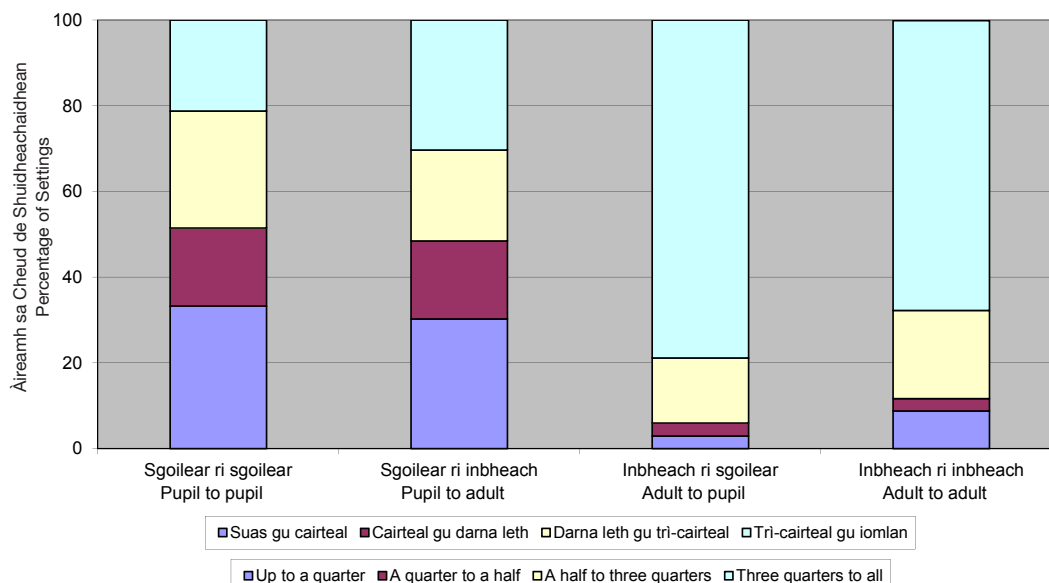
Ro-sgoil (3-5 bliadhna)

1. Mar as trice tha ìrean cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig nuair a thathas a' teagasg a' churraicealam san ro-sgoil àrd (mu 80%), ged nach eil iad cho àrd ris an ìre bogaidh anns a' chiad trì bliadhna den bhun-sgoil.
2. Ann an suidheachaidhean neo-fhoirmeil san sgoil leithid an raoin-chluiche, nan trannaichean msaa, bhathas ag ràdh nach bi clann ro-sgoile a' cleachdadh Gàidhlig uiread 's a tha clann sa bhun-sgoil, ach gum bi inbhich san ro-sgoil a' cleachdadh barrachd Gàidhlig na inbhich sa bhun-sgoil.

Tha an graf gu h-ìosal a' sealltainn cleachdadh cànan, a rèir aithris, eadar sgoilearan meadhain-Ghàidhlig agus luchd-obrach anns an ro-sgoil taobh a-muigh an t-seòmair-sgoile:

Cleachdadh Gàidhlig taobh a-staigh na ro-sgoile nuair nach eil ach sgoilearan meadhain-Ghàidhlig an làthair

Gaelic use inside the pre-school where only Gaelic-medium pupils are involved



Number of pre-schools represented in graph: Pupil to pupil: 33, Pupil to adult: 33, Adult to pupil: 33, Adult to adult: 34.

3. Pre-school settings use more Gaelic on signs and on notices for Gaelic-medium pupils than do primary schools.
4. Gaelic use in extra-curricular activities is on average higher in the pre-school Gaelic-medium settings than in primary schools which provide Gaelic-medium education.
5. There is little difference between pre-school and primary school contexts in relation to language use in communication with parents: this is predominantly in English in both contexts.

Primary school (5-12 years)

6. The cluster analysis identified four main categories of Gaelic-medium primary providers:
 - One large group (about 30% of all Gaelic-medium providers) in which Gaelic is the medium of instruction of nearly all teaching time throughout the primary school stages. [Cluster 1]
 - A second large group (about 30% of all Gaelic-medium providers) in which Gaelic is the medium of instruction of nearly all teaching time in the early primary school stages, but the amount of Gaelic used decreases steadily from Primary 4, reaching about two-thirds of teaching time in Primary 7. [Cluster 2]
 - A third cluster (about 20% of all Gaelic-medium providers) in which Gaelic is used for about four-fifths of teaching time in the first three primary-school stages, for just above two-thirds of teaching time in Primary 4 and for two-thirds of teaching time by Primary 7. [Cluster 3]
 - A fourth, small cluster (about 10% of all Gaelic-medium providers) in which Gaelic is the medium of instruction for nearly all teaching time in the first two primary-school stages, and then falls steadily to reach about one half of teaching time in Primary 6 and 7. [Cluster 4]

Àireamh ro-sgoiltean air an riochdachadh sa ghraf: Sgoilear ri sgoilear: 33, Sgoilear ri inbheach: 33, Inbheach ri sgoilear: 33, Inbheach ri inbheach: 34.

3. Tha suidheachaidhean ro-sgoile a' cleachdadh barrachd Gàidhlig air soidhnichean agus sanasan do sgoilearan meadhain-Ghàidhlig na bhios a' tachairt sa bhun-sgoil.
4. Anns a' chumantas, tha barrachd Gàidhlig ga chleachdadh ann an gnothaichean taobh a-muigh na sgoile ann am foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig ro-sgoile na ann am bun-sgoiltean a tha a' tabhann foghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig.
5. Chan eil ach glè bheag diofar eadar ro-sgoil agus bun-sgoil a thaobh cleachdadh cànan ann an conaltradh ri pàrantan: tha seo a' tachairt sa Bheurla, mar as tric, anns an dà shuidheachadh.

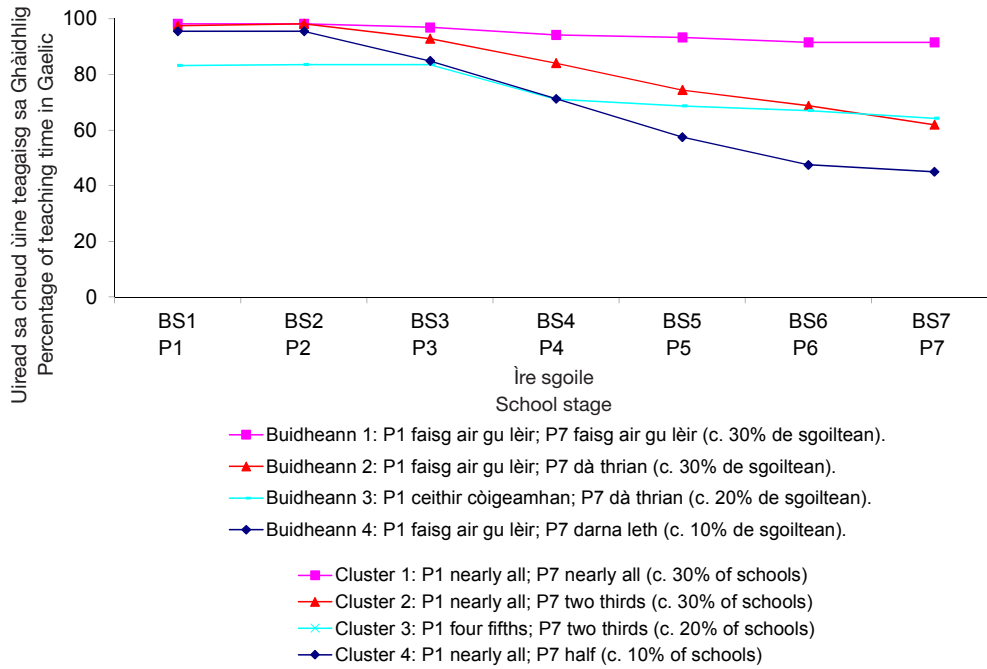
A' bhun-sgoil (5-12 bliadhna)

6. Chomharraich an anailis 'cluster' ceithir prìomh bhuidhnean sholaraidhean bun-sgoil meadhain-Ghàidhlig:
 - Aon bhuidheann mhòr (mu 30% de na solaraichean meadhain-Ghàidhlig uile gu lèir) far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig na meadhan teagaisg cha mhòr fad na tìde aig a h-uile ìre den bhun-sgoil. [Buidheann 1]
 - Buidheann mhòr eile (mu 30% de na solaraichean meadhain-Ghàidhlig gu lèir) far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig na meadhan teagaisg cha mhòr fad na tìde feadh nan ìrean tràtha, ach a' sìor dhol an lughad bho Prìomh 4, gus an ruig e mu dà thrìan den ùine teagaisg ann am Prìomh 7. [Buidheann 2]
 - Tha buidheann eile (mu 20% de na solaraichean meadhain-Ghàidhlig) far a bheil Gàidhlig na meadhan teagaisg mu cheithir còigeamhan den ùine teagaisg anns a' chiad trì ìre den bhun-sgoil, beagan a bharrachd air dà thrìan ann am Prìomh 4 agus dà thrìan den ùine teagaisg nuair a ruigear Prìomh 7. [Buidheann 3]
 - Buidheann bheag (mu 10% de na solaraichean meadhain-Ghàidhlig) far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig na meadhan teagaisg cha mhòr fad na tìde anns a' chiad dà ìre den bhun-sgoil, agus a' sìor thuiteam gu darna leth na h-ùine ann am Prìomh 6 agus 7. [Buidheann 4]

The levels of Gaelic use in the clusters are illustrated in the graph below:

Tha ìrean cleachdadh na Gàidhlig anns na buidhnean rim faicinn gu h-ìosal:

Uiread sa cheud ùine teagais sa Ghàidhlig, a rèir ìre bun-sgoile Percentage teaching time in Gaelic, by primary school stage



Number of primary schools represented in the graph: 40.

The cluster analysis was able to classify 90% of the Gaelic-medium primary providers who responded to the questionnaire into these four groups. The four clusters thus provide a fairly comprehensive summary of provision. The cluster analysis also identified two very small outlying clusters which are not included in this classification.

7. In each category of Gaelic-medium primary provider, patterns of language use in non-classroom domains (for example in assemblies, in the school corridors and playground, and in musical and drama activities) reflect these classroom patterns: that is to say, Category 1 schools typically have the highest level of Gaelic language use, and Category 4 the lowest. However, the correlation between curricular language model and non-classroom Gaelic language use is weaker in relation to sporting activities and school trips.

8. Many of the uses of Gaelic in areas outwith the classroom involve English-medium as well as Gaelic-medium pupils, and thus the presence of two language streams in the same school often gives English-medium pupils exposure to Gaelic. This use of Gaelic in contexts in which there are both Gaelic-medium and English-

Àireamh bhun-sgoiltean air an riochdachadh sa ghraf: 40.

Chaidh 90% de na solaraidhean bun-sgoile meadhain-Ghàidhlig a fhreagair an ceisteachan a roinn eadar na ceithir buidhnean seo. Tha na ceithir buidhnean, ma-thà, a' toirt seachad tuairisgeul gu math làn air solarachadh. Chomharraich an anailis dà bhuidheann bheag eile air an iomall nach eil a' nochdadh anns an rangachadh.

7. Anns gach buidheann solaraidhe bun-sgoile meadhain-Ghàidhlig, tha pàtran cleachdadh cànan taobh a-muigh an t-seòmair-sgoile (mar eisimpleir ann am mòr-choinneamhan sgoile, trannsaichean sgoile agus san raon-chluiche, agus ann an ceòl agus dràma) a' leantainn nam pàtran san t-seòmair-sgoile fhèin: sin, ann an sgoiltean ann am Buidheann 1 mar as trice tha an uiread as motha de Ghàidhlig ga cleachdadh agus tha an uiread as lugha ann am Buidheann 4. Ach cha robh an ceangal cho làidir eadar cleachdadh na Gàidhlig anns a' churraicealam agus cleachdadh cànan taobh a-muigh an t-seòmair-sgoile a thaobh tachartasan spòrs agus turasan.

8. Tha mòran de na suidheachaidhean taobh a-muigh na sgoile far a bheil Gàidhlig ga cleachdadh a' gabhail a-steach sgoilearan meadhain-Bheurla cho math ri sgoilearan meadhain-Ghàidhlig, a' ciallachadh nuair a tha an dà chànan san aon sgoil gu bheil sgoilearan meadhain-Bheurla a' faighinn blasad den

medium pupils also reflects the classroom language patterns of Gaelic-medium pupils. That is to say, English-medium pupils in schools which have a Category 1 Gaelic-medium stream typically experience more Gaelic than do English-medium pupils in schools with Category 2, 3 or 4 Gaelic-medium streams.

- 9. There was not a close correlation between curricular language model and language of communication to parents of Gaelic-medium pupils.

Secondary schools (12-18 years)

- 10. In secondary school, there is a sharp fall in Gaelic-medium pupils' exposure to Gaelic in the curriculum as compared to primary school. Only 14 secondary schools provide at least four subjects (including Gàidhlig as a subject for fluent speakers of the language) through the medium of Gaelic in the first and second years of secondary school.

This reduction in teaching time through the medium of Gaelic between the primary and secondary school stages is illustrated in the graph below:

Ghàidhlig. Tha pàtran cleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an suidheachaidhean far a bheil sgoilearan meadhain-Ghàidhlig agus sgoilearan meadhain-Bheurla a' tighinn còmhla cuideachd a' leantainn mar a tha Gàidhlig ga cleachdadh ann an seòmar-sgoile nan sgoilearan meadhain-Ghàidhlig. Is e sin, gum bi sgoilearan meadhain-Bheurla ann an sgoiltean far a bheil sruth Buidhne 1 de dh'fhoghlam meadhain-Ghàidhlig mar as trice a' suathadh ri barrachd Gàidhlig na sgoilearan meadhain-Bheurla ann an sgoiltean far a bheil sruthan meadhain-Ghàidhlig Buidhne 2, 3 no 4.

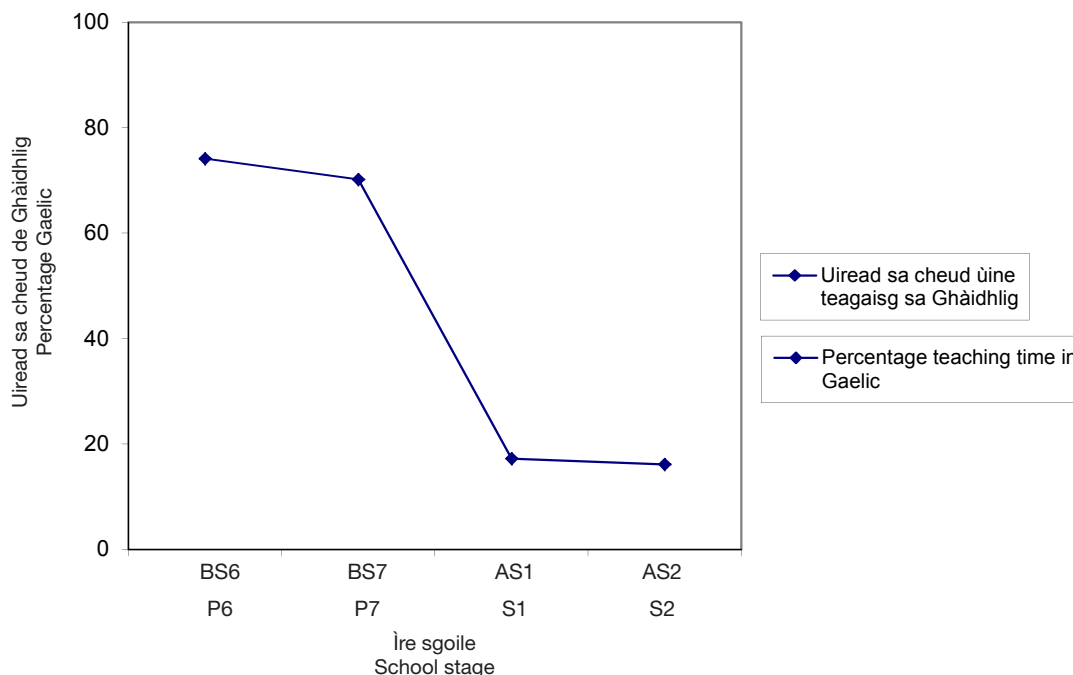
- 9. Cha robh ceangal làidir eadar modail cànan a chleachdadh anns a' churraicealam agus an cànan a chleachdadh ann an conaltradh ri pàrantan meadhain-Ghàidhlig.

Àrd-sgoiltean (12-18 bliadhna)

- 10. Anns an àrd-sgoil, tha tuiteam luath anns an uiread Gàidhlig a gheibh sgoilearan meadhain-Ghàidhlig sa churraicealam an coimeas ris a' bhun-sgoil. Chan eil ach 14 àrd-sgoil a' tabhann co-dhiù ceithir cuspairean (a' gabhail a-steach Gàidhlig mar chuspair do dh'fhileantaich) tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig anns a' chiad agus an dàrna bliadhna den àrd-sgoil.

Tha an lùghdachadh ann an ùine teagaisg tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig eadar a' bhun-sgoil agus an àrd-sgoil ri fhaicinn sa ghraf gu h-ìosal:

Uiread sa cheud ùine teagaisg sa Ghàidhlig, sa chuibheasachd, a rèir ìre sgoile ann an ìrean àrd na bun-sgoile agus ìrean ìosal na h-àrd-sgoile
Average percentage teaching time in Gaelic, by school stage in upper primary school and early secondary school



Number of schools represented in graph: Primary 6: 43, Primary 7: 42, Secondary 1: 24, Secondary 2: 24.

11. The reduction between primary school and secondary school in Gaelic curricular use is also reflected in a reduction in Gaelic language use in most kinds of extra-curricular activity, and in pupil communication around the school and in the playground, despite the efforts reported by many adults to use Gaelic most of the time when speaking to each other and to Gaelic-medium pupils.
12. The pattern for school assemblies in secondary school varies: some use a lot of Gaelic, but others use very little Gaelic.
13. English remains the predominant language of communication with parents of Gaelic-medium pupils at the secondary school stages.

Conclusions

Considering the findings as a whole from pre-school to secondary, we can conclude that there is on average more Gaelic language use in the classroom than in the corridors, more in the corridors than in the playground and more where a Gaelic-speaking adult is involved than when adults are not involved. There is always more Gaelic language use in domains involving only Gaelic-medium pupils than in domains involving both Gaelic-medium and English-medium pupils. Nevertheless, adults typically make strong efforts to use Gaelic, even when English-medium pupils are present.

References

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This research was supported with funding from Soillse and the Scottish Government.

Àireamh sgoiltean air an riochdachadh sa ghraf: Bun-sgoil P6: 43, P7: 42, Àrd-sgoil 1: 24, Àrd-sgoil 2: 24.

11. Tha an lùghdachadh eadar a' bhun-sgoil agus an àrd-sgoil ann an cleachdadh Gàidhlig anns a' churraicealam cuideachd ri fhaicinn anns a' mhòr-chuid de ghnìomhan taobh a-muigh a' churraicealaim, agus ann an conaltradh eadar sgoilearan air feadh na sgoile agus san raon-chluiche, a dh'aindeoin nan oidhirpean a thuir mòran inbheach a rinn iad airson Gàidhlig a chleachdadh a' mhòr-chuid den tìde a' bruidhinn ri chèile agus ri sgoilearan meadhain-Ghàidhlig.
12. Tha am pàtran airson mòr-choinneamhan sgoile san àrd-sgoil caochlaideach: bidh cuid a' cleachdadh mòran Gàidhlig ach bidh cuid eile nach cleachd ach glè bheag.
13. Is i Beurla a' phrìomh chànan airson conaltradh ri pàrantan meadhain-Ghàidhlig aig ìrean na h-àrd-sgoile.

Co-dhùnadh

Le bhith beachdachadh air na toraidhean gu lèir bho ro-sgoil gu àrd-sgoil, faodaidh sinn co-dhùnadh gu bheil, sa chuibheasachd, barrachd Gàidhlig ga cleachdadh san t-seòmar-sgoile na anns na tranrsaichean, barrachd anns na tranrsaichean na san raon-chluiche agus barrachd far a bheil inbheach le Gàidhlig an làthair na far nach eil. Tha an còmhnaidh barrachd Gàidhlig ga cleachdadh ann an suidheachaidhean far a bheil sgoilearan meadhain-Ghàidhlig a-mhàin an làthair na suidheachaidhean far a bheil sgoilearan meadhain-Bheurla ann cuideachd. A dh'aindeoin sin, bidh inbhich mar as trice a' dèanamh oidhirp mhòr Gàidhlig a chleachdadh, fiù nuair a tha sgoilearan meadhain-Bheurla an làthair.

Tùsan

Ionnsachadh agus Teagasg Alba (2010), *Curraicealam airson sàr-mhathais, Litearrachd agus Gàidhlig: Prionnsapalan agus cleachdadh*. Dùn Dè: Ionnsachadh agus Teagasg Alba

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Bha an rannsachadh seo air a mhaoineachadh le taic bho Soillse agus Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

Further information

The full research report may be obtained from
Soillse at:
www.soillse.ac.uk

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