

JGHS Parent Council – Gaelic Collaborative Forum

Minute of meeting – 4 September 2026

Capital Gaelic

The forum received updates on a range of Capital Gaelic initiatives:

- A planned International Women's Day performance of *The Herring Lasses*, involving pupils from Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce.
- The development of Gaelic resources for galleries.
- The Edinburgh Gaelic Footsteps Trail.
- A contribution from a sixth-year pupil to the Herring Girl trail.

Gaelic Work Placement Programme

The forum received an update on the Gaelic Work Placement Programme.

Some placements did not proceed as planned. Lessons from this experience will inform the future development of the programme.

The programme remains relevant to the wider development of Gaelic, particularly by providing opportunities for pupils to use Gaelic beyond the classroom and develop links with employment and professional life.

Early Years Gaelic Provision

The forum received an update on Early Years Gaelic provision and its role in supporting the wider GME pathway.

Area of Linguistic Significance

The forum discussed the Scottish Languages Act 2025 and the proposed designation of Areas of Linguistic Significance.

Edinburgh may have a strong case based on its GME provision, historical and cultural links with Gaelic, and wider Gaelic infrastructure. The Council is considering whether designation should cover the whole city or specific areas.

The proposed timetable is:

- **2026/27:** Preparation and scoping
- **2027/28:** Consultation
- **2028/29:** Development/designation
- **2029:** Alignment with the next Gaelic Language Plan

The Council has applied for almost £100,000 in Scottish Government funding, including funding for a scoping officer.

The designation process could help clarify the level of support, planning and accountability required for Gaelic provision in Edinburgh. It may also provide a framework for considering the needs of GME within the wider development of Gaelic in the city.

Community engagement

An update was provided on recent engagement events and surveys. Feedback from pupils and the wider Gaelic community identified the following issues:

- Attainment
- Communication
- Access to Gaelic opportunities
- Stronger links between GME and community organisations
- A stronger role for the Gaelic Youth Forum
- The role of Ionad in supporting the Gaelic community
- The need for more regular engagement rather than occasional surveys

Four priority themes are emerging to inform the next Gaelic Language Plan:

1. Communication
2. Community links and partnerships
3. Language, immersion and pedagogy
4. Professional learning

The discussion emphasised that engagement should be ongoing and should include pupils, parents, schools, community organisations and other Gaelic stakeholders.

Relevance to JGHS

The forum is taking a whole-system approach to Gaelic, covering early years, primary and secondary education, community, culture and employment.

For JGHS, the most relevant issues are the quality and continuity of the GME pathway, effective immersion and pedagogy, professional learning for staff, stronger links with the Gaelic community, and opportunities for pupils to use Gaelic beyond the classroom.

The Area of Linguistic Significance work may provide an important strategic framework for supporting Gaelic in Edinburgh.

Robbie Crocket from Education Estates was present as an observer. Estates planning was relevant insofar as it must support the needs of Gaelic education; however, the wider discussion focused primarily on the educational, linguistic, cultural and community development of Gaelic.

Context

The Edinburgh Gaelic Collaborative Forum brings together the Council, education providers, community organisations and other Gaelic stakeholders to support the development of Gaelic in Edinburgh. Its purpose is to encourage collaboration, share information, identify priorities and support the implementation of the Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

Further information about the forum and the Council's Gaelic work is available through the [City of Edinburgh Council Gaelic Language Plan and related information](#).

The Council's current [Gaelic Language Plan 2024–29](#) sets out commitments to increase the learning and use of Gaelic across the city, including support for Gaelic Medium Education, community development, cultural activity and the wider visibility of Gaelic in public life.

The discussion on Areas of Linguistic Significance took place in the context of the [Scottish Languages Act 2025](#). The Scottish Government has also published [statutory guidance on designating Areas of Linguistic Significance](#). These documents explain the legislative framework, the criteria that may be considered, and the process for identifying and designating areas where Gaelic or Scots has particular linguistic, historical, educational or cultural significance.