

Course information

Gaelic (Learners) S1-S3

The aim of the course is to encourage communicative competence in Gaelic.

Through learning Gaelic you will:

- develop your language skills
- appreciate the importance of learning a language
- develop an awareness of the opportunities associated with Gaelic
- increase your understanding and enjoyment of another culture
- support your personal development and learn skills for work and leisure

Course Content:

- You will have the opportunity to reinforce and build on the Gaelic you have been taught in your Primary School.
- As well as reinforcing biographical aspects of language, i.e. saying your name, age and where you live, the course covers other relevant topics such as: family; school; food and health; Scottish and foreign place names; money and time.
- The course aims to develop Listening, Talking, Reading and Writing skills. Some tasks will be inter-linked. For example, a Writing task may prepare you for a Talking task.
- The balance between these skills will change at various stages. For example, there will more Writing activities as the course progresses.
- Regular homework is expected. Set homework task include: learning words/phrases for vocabulary exercises, finishing off class work and preparing for assessments. It is also expected that you will do voluntary homework, e.g. regular revision of grammar and vocabulary in order to consolidate your learning in class.

Examples of Activities

Listening and Talking

- Conversing with your teacher, group tasks with your peers or role-playing
- Listening for information and responding to it

- Giving a short presentation about a certain topic

Reading

- Reading texts for enjoyment
- Answering questions based on a text
- Using a dictionary

Writing

- Writing about yourself and offering opinions
- Correcting your own work, perhaps with the support of your teacher or a member of the class.

Resources

- You will have access to dictionaries in class. If you wish to purchase a Gaelic dictionary for use at home, you will be advised on the best one to buy.
- You are fortunate to live in a Gaelic speaking community. This is a very valuable resource. You must make every effort to listen to Gaelic being spoken. With time, it is hoped that you will feel confident enough to contribute to conversations.
- You are also advised to access the excellent media resources such as BBC Alba, Radio nan Gàidheal and www.bbc.co.uk/alba. These are all highly beneficial to learners of Gaelic.

Progress

At the beginning of S1, pupils' experiences of Gaelic will vary. Do not worry about this as the course is designed to meet the needs of all pupils. At the end of S2, you will be asked to choose between Gaelic and German.

Your progress in Gaelic will be shown, for example, through:

- Becoming more independent and relying on less support
- Accessing and undertaking longer and more complicated texts and tasks in Listening and Reading
- Giving responses in Talking and Writing tasks which will be longer, more complex and more accurate
- Increasing awareness of language rules and how they work
- Becoming more confident in starting a conversation keeping it going

Assessment

- Assessment will focus on: Listening, Talking, Reading and Writing
- Your teacher will gather evidence for assessment as part of your day-to-day learning
- You will also be giving specific assessment tasks which will provide evidence of your progress. Tasks may include reading a Gaelic passage and showing your understanding by answering questions. You may also be asked to prepare for a Talking assessment about a certain topic.