

TEN FACTS ABOUT GAELIC

1 GAELIC IS VERY MUCH A MODERN LANGUAGE WITH AN ANCIENT HISTORY

Gaelic is in daily use in domestic, social and professional domains in Scotland and can call on 2,000 years of rich, continuous and evolving tradition.

2 GAELIC BILINGUALISM IS THUS A PASSPORT TO OTHER LANGUAGES

In Scotland, with the rapid growth of cultural industries, Gaelic is in fact a more useful passport to employment than either French or German with many career opportunities opening up in broadcasting, education, and public sector. Children educated in Gaelic-medium schools are true bilinguals and find it much easier to learn a third and fourth language.

3 GAELIC IS A UNIQUE SELLING POINT

Scotland's Gaelic culture is a unique attraction that can add value to the country as a destination. The Gaelic language and culture is seen by visitors as something attractive and distinct about Scotland.

4 GAELIC UNDERPINS SCOTTISH IDENTITY

It was after the early Gaelic speaking Scotti that Scotland was named. People across the UK, Europe and the rest of the world show an interest in the Gaelic language and culture as an intrinsic element of Scottish identity.

5 THERE ARE INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN GAELIC

Between children and adults, approximately 20,000 people in Scotland are currently learning Gaelic.

6 GAELIC IS INCLUSIVE

Whether you are from Cumbernauld, Carnoustie or Coatbridge then the language is as much yours as those from Castlebay, Carinish & Caithness. The linguistic and cultural backgrounds of children entering Gaelic-medium classes is diverse - some already have a degree of fluency and are exposed to the language and culture at home and in their communities; others initially have limited fluency and some only a few words and phrases and come from a variety of backgrounds.

7 GAELIC BELONGS TO THE WHOLE OF SCOTLAND

There are currently over 90,000 people in Scotland with an ability in Gaelic and almost 60,000 who speak it. The number of youngsters speaking Gaelic is now increasing due to the rapid growth of Gaelic-medium playgroups and schools across Scotland. Children living in 28 of 32 Scottish Local Authority areas access Gaelic-medium primary education.

8 GAELIC-MEDIUM EDUCATION CONFERS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Studies have shown that children educated through Gaelic do better, or at least are on par with their peers, in all subjects, including English. The reason is that children educated in this way view the world simultaneously through two cultural and linguistic "windows" thereby enhancing their intellectual powers and social skills.

9 GAELIC IS CULTURALLY ENRICHING

Nowadays Gaelic is a real asset. Not only does it aid access to employment, it is personally, socially and culturally enriching.

10 GAELIC FUNDING IS A GOOD INVESTMENT FOR SCOTLAND'S FUTURE

Many Gaelic services, e.g: schools, learners facilities, television programmes etc are also accessed enthusiastically by non-Gaelic speakers. Gaelic television viewing figures and sales of Gaelic music demonstrates that the Gaelic speaking community in Scotland punches 10 times above its weight. Gaelic gives good value for money!

