Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Monitoring Report Template

Section 6(2) of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 enables Bòrd na Gàidhlig to require a public authority to submit a report on the extent to which it has implemented the measures set out in its plan.

This monitoring report should detail progress on:

- Commitments that have a timescale for completion for each reporting year and;
- Any details on progress on commitments that have been designated as ongoing or throughout the lifetime of the plan.

There is no requirement for public bodies to use this template. Providing evidence is submitted as detailed above, reports can be submitted in a format suitable to individual public authorities.

Name of Organisation:

Renfrewshire Council

Date of report:

22/06/2026

Reporting Period (including day/month/year):

28 March 2025 to 28 March 2026

1. **Please provide a high-level summary of progress made in implementing your Gaelic Language Plan highlighting successes, challenges and areas for improvement.**

Successes: Significant progress has been made in promoting Gaelic language engagement across education and the wider community. A key highlight was World Gaelic Week 2026 at West Primary School, which successfully brought together a range of external partners to deliver diverse, immersive experiences. Pupils from both English and Gaelic Medium streams participated in activities including music, circus skills, environmental workshops and active games. This collaborative approach not only enhanced language exposure but also strengthened cultural connections.

At Mary Russell School, senior pupils benefited from targeted Gaelic input linked to their Scots Language Awards, deepening their understanding of linguistic connections between Gaelic, Scots and English. This interdisciplinary approach has supported both language learning and national identity awareness.

Parental engagement has also improved. A six-week Gaelic learning programme for parents equipped them with practical skills to support their children's literacy and numeracy in Gaelic Medium Education (GME), strengthening home-school links.

Community access to Gaelic has been enhanced through an increased provision of Gaelic books in local libraries, supported by appropriate signage to raise visibility and accessibility.

Encouragingly, there has been a significant rise in GME uptake, with a 50% increase in P1 enrolments in August 2025 compared to 2024 and a further uplift in provisional registrations for 2026. This indicates growing awareness and confidence in Gaelic education within the community.

Challenges: Despite positive progress, several challenges remain. Staffing continues to be a key issue, particularly in recruiting suitably qualified Gaelic-speaking staff. A recent Principal Teacher maternity leave post could not be filled at the required level, highlighting ongoing difficulties in securing experienced leadership within GME.

The development of Gaelic Early Years provision has also progressed more slowly than anticipated. This has largely been due to challenges in identifying a suitable and sustainable location. Work is ongoing to explore viable options that align with both Early Years provision and the longer-term expansion of primary GME.

Areas for Improvement: There are clear opportunities to build on current successes. Expanding family and community-based Gaelic activities, such as Bookbug and play sessions, could further enhance early language exposure and parental involvement. Funding applications have already been submitted to support this potential growth.

Additionally, a skills audit of teaching and Early Years staff is underway to better understand current Gaelic language capacity and interest. This will inform targeted professional learning opportunities, enabling staff to develop their Gaelic skills and support future expansion.

Overall, strong progress has been made, particularly in engagement, participation and awareness. Addressing staffing and infrastructure challenges, alongside strategic expansion of community-based provision and staff development, will be key to sustaining this momentum.

2. **Please provide details of commitments that have a timescale for completion in this reporting year.**

Targets for Year 2: 2025-2026

Aim/Target:	Recruitment.
Progress:	This formed part of the review of the recruitment policy and was completed at the end of 2025. Under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty, the Council made reasonable adjustments and removed barriers for applicants, this could include language support if required. In practice, this includes an obligation to provide translation or interpreting services when requested, though it is not specifically stated in the Recruitment Policy.

Aim/Target:	Recruitment.
Progress:	This was considered as part of the review of the recruitment policy. Appropriate reviews were carried out to ensure the action was being maintained, reminders were sent to senior managers, HR and education services regarding our commitment to provide job adverts in bilingual. In addition, the Recruitment Team confirmed any requests for support with specific language requirements are available on request via our Interpretation Service.

Aim/Target:	Undertake the duty under the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 to promote and support, as appropriate, the potential for Gaelic medium and Gaelic learner education to Renfrewshire Council residents.
Progress:	Engaged with families to evaluate the accessibility and usefulness of GME communications, incorporating feedback where appropriate to enhance this process. Right to GME continues to be highlighted in P1 registration. forms (November annually) and registrations have shown year on year increase, including registrations for August 2026. These events were highlighted by our Communications team via the Council's social media channels and feedback from parents regarding promotional events was positive.
Aim/Target:	We will continue to make all parents aware of their right to request Gaelic Medium Education (GME) for their child.
Progress:	Engaged with parents/carers to measure the extent of their awareness and identify actions to enhance this. Information regarding the provision of GME is available on Renfrewshire Council's website. Learning and education at Gaelic school | Renfrewshire Council Ionnsachadh agus Foghlam ann an Gàidhlig | Renfrewshire Council
Aim/Target:	Continue to work with partners to provide Gaelic Learners Education at primary and secondary level with a view to increasing uptake.
Progress:	Engaged with schools and early learning establishments to assess demand and worked with partners to identify all relevant opportunities. Primary Gaelic Medium Education (GME), introduced in August 2022, has expanded to cover P1–P6 by the 2025/26 session. West Primary School staff support Gaelic Learner Education through clubs and themed weeks, while resources for World Gaelic Week have been shared across all primary schools. Funding has been sought to train teachers to deliver Gaelic as a third language (L3). A Gaelic Education Development Officer is now in post to support schools and Gaelic classes for parents are being planned to help them support their children's learning.

Aim/Target: Internal audit.

Progress: Within the first 2 years, an internal audit was carried out at organisational and team/staff level where relevant to role. Utilised other available insight where it related to Renfrewshire's staff. Currently, three roles across the council use Gaelic alongside English - two teaching posts at West Primary and a temporary Gaelic Development Officer. Any People & OD training required in Gaelic is provided on request.

3. **Please provide progress on commitments that are ongoing or throughout the lifetime of the plan.**

Ongoing Targets Progress – Year 2: 2025-2026

Aim/Target: Language training.

Progress: Training opportunities will be provided based on skills audit outcomes, with additional requests supported where they are relevant to the role and justified through individual Performance Development Plan.

Aim/Target: Awareness training.

Progress: Explore and use existing iLearn training modules in partnership with Bord na Gàidhlig, alongside externally sourced awareness training options, including Gaelic awareness courses of varying durations with defined learning outcomes.

Ongoing Targets Progress – Year 5: 2028-2029

Aim/Target: Actively promote the use of Gaelic in communication between the public and the Council and within the community.

Progress: Proactively promote accessible Gaelic content in a way that is easily accessible to our communities through the council's communication, marketing, internal communications and Digital Experience (DxP) strategies. This is an ongoing activity.

Aim/Target:	We will continue to encourage participation in Gaelic learning at all levels, from early years through to adult education with a view to increasing uptake.
Progress:	Improve awareness and uptake of Gaelic learning by strengthening collaboration, communication and access to information. Conduct an audit of current L3 Gaelic provision and implement a development plan to expand it across more schools, alongside training opportunities for interested teachers. Explore and develop early years and secondary Gaelic provision, supported by initiatives such as beginner classes for parents and community promotion events. Maintain and enhance GME promotion through updated, bilingual online information and partnership working. A strategic group is leading plans to expand Gaelic Medium Education, including preparing a business case for future growth.
Aim/Target:	As a legacy of the Royal National Mod 2023 in Paisley, promote further opportunities to learn and use Gaelic in the area.
Progress:	Promote Gaelic language use by sharing handy phrases through council platforms and integrating Gaelic into events and marketing. Continue to support cultural initiatives like Fèis Phàislig, school engagement and local traditional musicians. Ongoing efforts also include supporting the Gaelic choir, expanding opportunities for young people to engage with Gaelic music and maintaining promotional activity to encourage learning and use of Gaelic across the area.
Aim/Target:	Signage.
Progress:	Introduce bilingual signage as part of renewal works, ensuring equal prominence for Gaelic and English—particularly at Renfrewshire House. Work is underway to update “Welcome to Renfrewshire” signage, with a site survey completed and design development in progress.

Aim/Target:	Logo and brand.
Progress:	Develop and implement a bilingual Gaelic and English logo as part of brand renewal, ensuring equal prominence for both languages. A Gaelic version of the logo already exists and updated corporate brand guidelines will formalise its use, with ongoing monitoring through 2026.
Aim/Target:	Promotion.
Progress:	Increase visibility of Gaelic in council communications by encouraging its use and including positive messaging on the website. Develop an annual Gaelic Medium Education (GME) promotion plan, supported by updated bilingual web content and a dedicated Gaelic Development Worker to help manage and enhance communications.
Aim/Target:	Written Communication.
Progress:	The Council will continue to respond to communications in Gaelic and promote this policy more widely to improve awareness across services. Translation services remain in place to support all languages, including Gaelic and while no Gaelic correspondence has been received to date, the capability to respond is available.
Aim/Target:	Reception and phone.
Progress:	Staff are supported with training to use basic Gaelic greetings and assistance is available from other teams to respond to Gaelic-speaking customers when needed.
Aim/Target:	Public meetings.
Progress:	Promote the option of holding bilingual or Gaelic public meetings where appropriate, with engagement activities delivered through the Your Voice Matters campaign during 2026. Insights from this programme will help shape future Community and Council plans.

Aim/Target: Corporate Publications.

Progress: Identify key corporate publications suitable for Gaelic editions. The Council Plan and Community Plan have been redesigned, translated into Gaelic and published bilingually on the council website.

Aim/Target: Exhibitions.

Progress: Paisley Museum will be opening to the public late 2026 after eight years of extensive redevelopment. There will be new exhibits and displays, including one display about the Jacobite's where there will be an introductory panel in Gaelic as well as one in English. The story focuses on the Jacobite risings of 1715 and 1745 through a Paisley lens, contrasting the experiences of two local Jacobite's with the overwhelmingly anti-Jacobite sentiment of the town. The objects include swords and medals, and the display will be on the Balcony Gallery as part of 'Paisley and Scotland'.

Aim/Target: News releases.

Progress: All information about Gaelic in schools is now provided bilingually in Gaelic and English on an ongoing basis. This includes translated communications about Gaelic schools and programmes, such as the bilingual media release promoting the Gaelic Medium Education information event for parents and carers in September 2025.

Aim/Target: Social media.

Progress: All information about Gaelic in schools is published bilingually in Gaelic and English on an ongoing basis, with a commitment to sharing at least three bilingual posts each year. Communications relating to Gaelic Medium Education events for parents and carers are consistently issued in both languages.

Aim/Target: Website.

Progress: Refresh and update the Gaelic in schools web content, making it fully available in both Gaelic and English. Updates to schools and nurseries information has been finalised and published.

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Aim/Target:	Recruitment.
Progress:	Review the need for a Gaelic officer post on an annual basis and explore joint funding opportunities with other local authorities. Any future recruitment materials for funded posts will be made available in Gaelic.
Aim/Target:	Induction.
Progress:	Ensure induction and corporate materials reference the Gaelic Language Plan. The induction programme is delivered through the Welcome Aboard iLearn module, with interpretation and language support available on request. Information within the induction module, including Gaelic content, can be provided in Gaelic and other languages as needed.
Aim/Target:	Gaelic Orthographic Conventions.
Progress:	Publish and maintain the latest Gaelic Orthographic Conventions, with guidance for Renfrewshire Council use. This is an ongoing action, supported by advice from translation suppliers.
Aim/Target:	Placenames.
Progress:	Continue to consult Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba to ensure accurate use of Gaelic place names, with additional advice provided by translation suppliers when required.

4. **Any other relevant information.**

March 2025
Ralston Community Ceilidh was a night to remember. Over 80 people came together for an evening of brilliant music, dancing and local talent. The event showcased performances from pupils of Williamsburgh and Ralston Out of School Care groups, adding a wonderful touch of local talent to the night. The enthusiasm and energy created an unforgettable atmosphere, a true sense of community spirit. **(Funded by the Paisley East Local Partnership Group – Renfrewshire Council).**

April 2025
Paisley Book Festival 2025
The Paisley Book Festival entered its 6th year, with the theme being **The Lives We Live**. It is a platform for the celebration of books, reading and writing held over the course of 3 days. It is a festival with creativity and innovation at the heart of its programme. The festival connects readers and writers with bold, contemporary ideas, engaging established audiences, inspiring new ones and an effective marketplace for the writing and publishing world.

The festival was held in Paisley Town Hall and Trainspotting author Irvine Welsh headlined a stellar line-up for this year's book festival along with several high-profile authors.

The festival aims to:

- Raise the profile of Paisley and Renfrewshire as a place where inspiring cultural events happen.
- Increase visitor numbers to Paisley, both local and visitors to the town.
- Animate Paisley as part of the regeneration of the town centre.
- Inspire more people to engage with the written and spoken word.
- Improve access to culture.
- Develop the careers of local and national writers.
- Develop a financially sustainable festival for the future.

May 2025

Stramash for Schools

Stramash for schools was held over 15 days visiting 45 schools in Renfrewshire. There was lots of fantastic singing, traditional live music, clapping and questions. One of Fèis Phàislig's favourite was "why isn't Gaelic taught in all schools?" – it was great to hear so many young people enthusiastic about Gaelic language and traditional music.

Many primary school pupils were taught their first Gaelic song with tutors being impressed with all their questions about their instruments and the different sounds they make. Pupils at Mary Russell even got to try some of their very first ceilidh dancing!

Pupils at Johnstone High School took part in a music-making session, arranging their own Puirt-a-Beul (Mouth Music) and finding out about a career as professional musicians. Pupils from Renfrew High shared they had been learning about Scottish music and composing their own traditional tunes!

June 2025

The weekly lessons summer concert was such a success with the amazing young musicians sharing what they have been working on to a packed-out audience at Gleniffer High School. Well done to all!

July 2025

Fèis Week

Feis Week was held over four incredible days in July at Johnstone High School, where it focuses on music, arts and Gaelic culture. A week full of creativity, confidence and connection.

P1-P3 Fèis Bheag (Wee Fèis) – An introduction to traditional music and Gaelic culture through music, song, dance and art.
P4-S6 Main Fèis – Come-and-try workshops aimed at beginners with music, song, dance, filmmaking and more.
S1-S6 Advanced Fèis – A series of developmental workshops for high school pupils who play an instrument or sing.

As part of Fèis Week there were various events taking place including, Carnival Day where participants dressed to impress, the All-Star Tutors' Ceilidh and various workshops with lots of enthusiastic participants. It's all about the music, learning and laughter!

1st Choice Filmmaking class – The Bread and the Bank – a short film written, filmed and edited by the class. A quiet starry night, two burglars are sneaking towards the town bank, one speaks English, the other only French, what could go wrong? Will their plan succeed, or will it all unravel? Watch now and find out: The Bread and the Bank.

An Amazing finale took place on 18th July to round of Fèis Week. It was full of energy, talent and joy. Attended by family and friends as well as tutors and volunteers.

With around 200 participants, this is the biggest celebration yet of Gaelic culture, creativity and community!

Ceilidh Trail – gives musicians and singers aged 16-25 the opportunity to experience life on the road as a traditional musician. It gives the young and early-career musicians and singers to gain hands-on experience of life as professional performers and develop their skills. Over the course of a two-week professional summer tour, they will showcase their music in a variety of settings. What's better than spending the summer making music, touring across the West of Scotland, performing in exciting venues, making friends and getting paid for it. (**Ceilidh Trail is part funded by Renfrewshire Council's Culture, Heritage and Events Fund.) Fèis Phàislig thanks Renfrewshire Council for their support.**

The Ceilidh Trail were absolutely delighted to perform at the Tiree Music Festival in July. The festival is one of Scotland's most iconic island festivals and they certainly brought their tunes to the beachside stage.

October 2025
Còisir Ghàidhlig Fèis Phàislig – Paisley Fèis Gaelic Choir – win awards at the Royal National Mod 2025
The Choir were delighted to welcome Depute Provost Councillor Cathy McEwan to celebrate their recent victory at the Royal National Mòd. Councillor McEwan presented medals to the talented participants.

The Choir swept the board, earning them all three trophies on offer: The Donald & Mamie MacPhail, The Darlington Society Silver Jubilee and The Morag Robb Memorial Trophy. The young performers treated them all to a rendition of their winning song, Till an Crodh, a Dhòmhnaill, plus a festive Christmas tune to get into the Christmas spirit!

The Choir also performed at the annual Paisley Christmas Lights switch on.

November 2025
St Andrew's Night Ceilidh
A fantastic night of dancing was held at Ralston Community Centre, Paisley. It was a fun night of live music for all the family and everyone was treated to two brilliant open floor spots from some fiddlers. **(Part-funded by the Paisley East Local Partnership Group – Renfrewshire Council).**

December 2025
The Fèis Phàislig Christmas Concert was held in Johnstone High School and it was a special afternoon of music. The young musicians that took part were from the Weekly Lessons programme, including Fèis Bheag, instrumental learners and the Gaelic Choice. They confidently showcased all they've been working on over the past few months. It was a warm and joyful atmosphere ending the year on a high note.

As part of Fèis Phàislig's Roadshow series, a programme of pop-up come and try music sessions took place across Renfrewshire. One being held at the RIG Arts Music and Craft Christmas Event at Priorscroft Bowling Club, Paisley, offering free fiddle and accordion sessions for all ages. **(Funded by the Paisley East Local Partnership Group – Renfrewshire Council).**

They also visited the Tannahill Centre as part of their Christmas Lights Switch-on event. Lots of smiling faces and Christmas cheer! **(Funded by the Paisley North, West & Central Local Partnership Group – Renfrewshire Council).**

February 2026
10-year Anniversary Concert
Fèis Phàislig celebrated their 10-year Anniversary Concert which was held in Paisley Town Hall, with over 500 people in attendance. It was an unforgettable and special night of music, Gaelic culture and community with over 100 performers from past and present sharing the stage. There were plenty of familiar faces from across the last decade, special guests, past participants, tutors and so many current young people.

As part of the 10-year celebrations, Fèis Phàislig commissioned a brand-new Gaelic song, 'Oran Fèis Phàislig' which was performed for the first time at the concert. It was brought to life by over 100 performers, including tutors and musicians past and present.

You can watch the full concert by clicking on the following link - Fèis Phàislig 10-year Anniversary Concert (Gaelic Song - Oran Fèis Phàislig: 1:47:00)

Fèis Phàislig are so grateful to everyone who has been part of this story and are excited for everything still to come. **(Supported by The National Lottery through Creative Scotland).**

Introducing the Fèis Phàislig Tartan / Tartan Fèis Phàislig
As part of the 10-year Anniversary celebrations Fèis Phàislig are delighted to unveil the official Fèis Phàislig tartan – a bespoke design marking a decade of music, language and community in Renfrewshire. Now officially registered on the Scottish Register of Tartans, the tartan made its public debut at the Anniversary Concert, worn by host Joy Dunlop and Fèis Phàislig's Director Grant McFarlane.

The tartan was developed from ideas shared by the young participants and created in partnership with Houston Kiltmakers, Paisley. The tartan reflects the energy and creativity that have shaped Fèis Phàislig over the past ten years and offers a lasting marker as they look ahead.

Co-là breith sona dhut! / Happy birthday to you!
Young participants from the weekly Fèis Bheag (Wee Fèis) sessions celebrated 10 years of Fèis Phàislig with a party. There was plenty of creativity on display as they made festive bunting and birthday cards, all filled with cheerful messages wishing Fèis Phàislig a very happy birthday.

Ceilidh Trail – performed at the Great Canadian Kilt Skate at Braehead Ice Centre. The Skate is held across 15 communities in Canada and the USA and, in celebration of our twin town Renfrew, Canada, the Ceilidh Trail brought a brilliant showcase of Scottish Culture and traditional music to the ice. In addition to the summer tour, the Ceilidh Trail also performs at a number of events throughout the year. **(Funded by Renfrew Local Partnership Group – Renfrewshire Council).**

March 2026
Gaelic Choir/Còisir Ghàidhlig – the choir performed at Renfrewshire Schools' Spring Concert Series at Paisley Town Hall, alongside a fantastic range of local ensembles and musical groups. They sang several Gaelic songs along with one of the pieces that helped them secure 1st place at the Royal National Mòd back in October.

General

Fèis Bheag (Wee Fèis) – fun and engaging weekly sessions introducing children from P1-P4 to traditional music and Gaelic culture through music, song, dance and art and more! Sessions in both English and Gaelic. These continue to be held at West Primary School.

Free Gaelic Bookbug sessions – Rachel and Bookbug introduce you to some new Gaelic songs. These sessions continue to be held in Paisley Central Library.

Weekly lessons programme delivers year-round music tuition for young people aimed at P5 and above. They are fun, creative and an inspiring way for children to learn music on one of the core instruments: accordion, fiddle, or guitar. Saturday classes are held at West Primary School and offer a brilliant opportunity to try something new, make friends and build confidence through traditional music.

Gaelic Choir – free weekly sessions for P5 and above who love to sing. These sessions will be held every Tuesday evening at Castlehead High School, Paisley. A chance to take part in performances, build confidence and make new friends.