

**Parent Council Forum
Sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu
17th January 2013**

Chair: Donald Iain Brown

DI Brown gave a short synopsis of the development at Glendale and an overview of recent discussions with Glasgow City Council and other stakeholders. The floor was opened to questions and the following topics were discussed regarding the new development at Glendale.

1. School catchment and provision

Concerns were expressed about the catchment area for Glendale and possibility of movement of children settled in Sgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu (SGG) to the new campus.

Chair's comment: No details on catchment available yet but will form a public consultation. Provision is P1 – P5.

2. Is the proposed Glendale school “fit for purpose”?

Concerns raised about nursery provision, capacity to accommodate the current cohort from South side at SGG (~40 P1 children in SGG 2012 intake for 25 P1 spaces at Glendale), capacity for growth in future, future provision if demand outstrips capacity, public transport links to Glendale campus.

The proximity of Glendale to SGG was discussed. Many questions regarding the closeness to SGG; a South Side GME provision may be better sited further into the heart of South Side. Proximity also an advantage to build shared activities and share resource between the student bodies of both schools e.g. after school clubs.

3. GME and full immersion

Many expressions of concern about the dilution of language in a shared campus model. The evidence supports full immersion. However, many examples across Scotland of GME within and alongside English provision without significant effects on language acquisition. Glendale is currently a multilingual school (~17 languages). From discussions held with Glendale community, welcoming of GME provision on the campus and in the community. Glendale proposal is for a GME school within a shared campus model (operated successfully across GCC in English language settings). It will be a stand-alone GME establishment with its own Head teacher and management structure establishing full GME provision.

Action: Push GCC to employ bilingual support staff to support gaelic language use in shared spaces
(DI Brown/Maureen McKenna)

4. What other options did GCC consider for GME provision?

A number of other sites on the South Side were discussed as possible options better suited to the South side community. What level of research led to the selection of Glendale? What other options were “on the table”? Are further sites available for future provision which are a better suited for the community on the South side?

Common concern that the Glendale proposal, although not new, had been rushed through with recent developments. Many expressions of concern about whether proposal is “fit for purpose” but also many expressions that if this proposal is all that GCC is offering, then it could and should be made “fit for purpose” in the absence of a coherent argument for refusing it. GCC were commended for their support for GME in the city and the fact that a second GME provision was being discussed highlights the success of GME in the Glasgow area. Support for an initiative to “seize back the agenda” for future GME provision in the city.

Action point: Set a date for a public meeting where Maureen McKenna, Director of Education GCC and the architectural team will attend to discuss the Glendale proposal.
(DI Brown)