

Plana Gàidhlig Fhìobha

Fife's Gaelic Language Plan
2026 - 2031



Gach latha, gach àite, gach duine | Every day, every place, every person

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The Gaelic language is woven into Fife's history, landscape and place-names, reflecting a rich heritage that continues to be reclaimed and strengthened. In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of people in Fife with Gaelic skills. Since 2011, the number of Gaelic users in Fife has doubled, with around 1.3% of the population now reporting some Gaelic language ability. Fife Council is committed to supporting the Gaelic language and culture in ways that reflect local need and opportunity.

The Fife Gaelic Language Plan 2026–2031 sets out how the Council and its partners will strengthen Gaelic across Fife by:

- Increasing the range and frequency of opportunities to use Gaelic in community life, supported by Gaelic learning and cultural activity. (*Community support*)
- Supporting Gaelic language and cultural activities for people across a wide range of ages and interests. (*Support in the home; Creative industries*)
- Promoting and supporting access to Gaelic education in early years, primary and secondary settings. (*0-18 Education*)
- Expanding post-school and adult learning of Gaelic through community-based programmes and learning delivered through the medium of Gaelic. (*Post-school and adult learning*)
- Strengthening partnerships to support delivery of the Plan. (*Public Authorities*)
- Strengthening Fife Council's own role in supporting the Gaelic language through planned delivery, partnership working and stronger links to wider policy. (*Public Authorities*)

This section sets out the legislative duties and policy frameworks that guide this third edition of our Plan.

Legislation

In line with the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and Scottish Languages Act 2025, Fife Council has prepared and is committed to delivering this Gaelic Language Plan. Gaelic Language Plans set out how local authorities will support and promote Gaelic within their area and how Gaelic can be used on a basis of equal respect with English. This edition of the Plan is based on the principle that Gaelic use and learning have the potential to grow in Fife. Through this Plan, Fife Council will continue to increase the availability of Gaelic in services, education, community engagement, events and identity.

Policy alignment

At national level, this Plan aligns with the National Gaelic Language Plan 2023–2028 and supports the Scottish Government Equalities Outcomes 2025–2029.

At local level, the Plan aligns with the [Fife Council Equality Priorities 2025–2029](#), particularly Priority 1 and Priority 2 on access to information and services and inclusive communities. It also links to the Community Learning and Development Plan 2024–2027 and the wider Plan for Fife.

Aligning the Gaelic Language Plan with these strategies ensures that Gaelic contributes to wider outcomes and that national and local priorities are connected.

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Evidence

This section summarises the key evidence that informs the priorities and actions in this Plan.

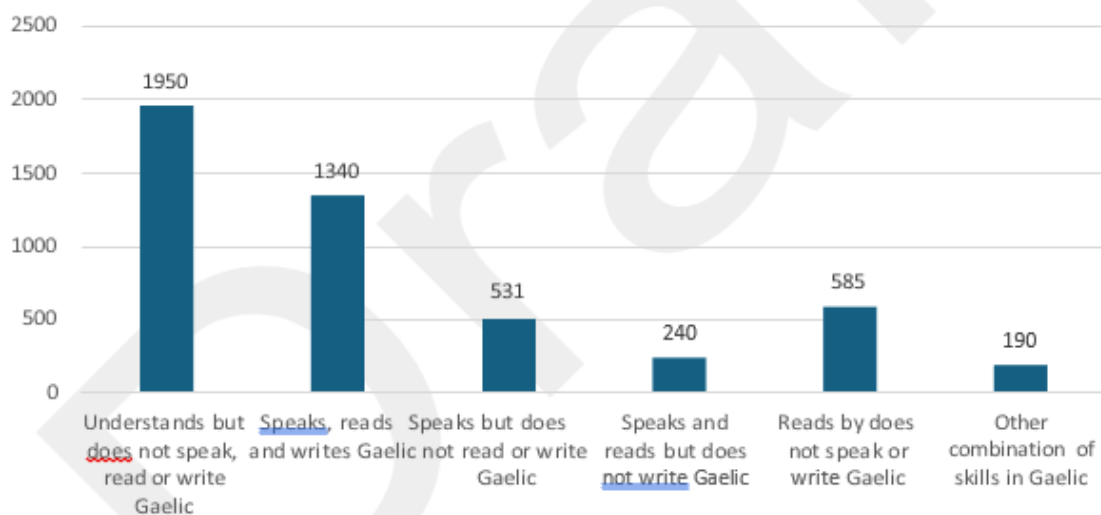
Embedding Gaelic in policy, service delivery and organisational activity is key to achieving the Plan's aims. The overall outcome is to make Gaelic more visible and audible across Fife, in line with local demand for Gaelic in public services.

Census 2022

At the 2022 Census, 1.3% of Fife's population reported having Gaelic language skills. The number of Gaelic users in Fife has almost doubled since 2011 (up from 0.7% in 2011).

Most people with Gaelic skills report that they understand Gaelic with smaller numbers able to speak, read and write the language (Figure 1). Actions delivered through the previous Plan contributed to this growth and demonstrates increasing interest in Gaelic across Fife.

Figure 1: Number of people aged three and over with Gaelic language skills in Fife (source: Census, 2022)



Community Feedback

A public consultation ran on the Council's Citizen Space platform between July and September 2025. It gathered views on ten themes: meeting places and spaces; built environment; Gaelic community events and learning; public transport; feeling heard; safety; pride; accessing services; opportunities to train, work or volunteer and the Gaelic community.

Eighteen responses were received. Themes rated below "better than OK" highlighted gaps in:

- Access to Gaelic events and learning opportunities
- Availability of suitable spaces and public transport
- Access to services and information
- Opportunities to train, work or volunteer through Gaelic

Key messages from the consultation included:

- A need for clearer and more accessible information about Gaelic learning and events and accessible venues via different modes of transport
- More evening and locally accessible learning opportunities
- Greater visibility of Gaelic history, culture and place-names
- More opportunities for Gaelic speakers and learners to connect
- Stronger leadership and commitment from public bodies

Focus groups in Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and St Andrews and a partner enquiry process reinforced these findings and highlighted the need for clearer pathways, improved resourcing and better understanding of what the Plan means in practice.

This third Fife Gaelic Language Plan builds on earlier progress to recognise and promote Gaelic as part of Fife's heritage and increase access to Gaelic language and culture.

Since 2020, progress included:

- Introducing bilingual signage in Fife libraries
- Establishing Gaelic conversation groups in community venues
- Strengthening partnerships with Trusts and community organisations
- Developing adult learning pathways through Community Learning, Community Use Schools and the Workers' Educational Association

Snapshot of progress:

Gaelic tutors worked in three schools, supporting 590 pupils, 13 teachers and three additional staff. Gaelic learning was embedded across subjects such as history and geography and featured in school performance.

Fife's Music Service supported Gaelic song and traditional music in a further nine schools, involving an additional 275 pupils and ten teachers.

Community Learning and Development services supported Gaelic conversation groups in three areas of Fife, helping learners build confidence and progress and promoting the value of our heritage languages. Gaelic learning opportunities were also made available through a range of partners across Fife.

New digital and physical resources were developed to support schools teaching and learning, including a Gaelic resource bank, children's books, dictionaries and traditional instruments. Work is underway to establish Gaelic extra-curricular activity in secondary settings linked to primary provision and the offer of Level 3 Gaelic in one primary school specifically.

Gaelic conversation groups are a social way to build confidence and skills. They also offer networking opportunities for native Gaelic speakers who can often feel isolated due to the loss of language. These groups are run in community and can help boost local businesses and venues – also normalising Gaelic as more people hear it spoken in every day venues.

Free Gaelic and Scots Bookbug sessions have been run in libraries and cultural venues – supporting family language learning and raising awareness of Gaelic culture in a fun and informal way.

This section sets out the areas of focus, improvements and actions Fife Council commit to deliver against over the course of this plan.

Focus for improvement

There are 23 areas of focus and associated improvements identified to enhance the use, learning and promotion of Gaelic and the corporate support to enable that across assets, policy and practice across Fife. This includes a range of actions to improve:

- Language and culture through music
- Ceilidh mhòr
- Participation levels
- Adult learning opportunities
- Tutor capacity
- Family Support
- Language and culture in schools
- Opportunities through libraries and cultural venues
- Links with economy and tourism
- Local identity and visibility
- Council corporate identity and alignment
- Gaelic awareness and front-line communication
- Routine correspondence
- Online and social engagement
- Visibility and accessibility in publications
- Website content and promotions
- Workforce support and encouragement

Action Plan 2026-2031

Set out below is the detail of the focus areas, the change sought, action that will be taken and service responsibilities and timescales.

A. Using Gaelic

	Area of Focus	Current Practice	Actions	Responsibility & Timescale
1	Increased use of Gaelic music in Primary schools and increased access to Gaelic resources and learning opportunities	A Gaelic Kodály musicianship project of 12 weeks is offered by a Gaelic speaking Project Leader to one school supporting two GLPS trained teachers with their own Gaelic development reinforcing their L3 teaching. Their classes receives music lessons incorporating instructional Gaelic and Gaelic songs and games.	Develop Kodaly resources for Gaelic music, centrally	Youth Music Initiative (YMI) December 2026
			Gaelic and Scots top up training for Kodaly practitioners	Autumn 2027
2	Increased uptake in traditional musical instruments and understanding of Gaelic language and culture in schools	One primary school has a cèilidh project incorporating Gaelic song, penny whistles, bòdhrans and guitars. Several schools receive Pipe Band Drumming YMI Projects. Fife Music Service offers clàrsach and chanter at primary schools and pipes at secondary, as well as pipe band drumming and clàrsach.	Hold annual 'Ceilidh mhòr' bringing cluster primaries and secondary together to share music, language and cultur	YMI Summer 2026
			Develop Cèilidh Mhòr into a different area of Fife with mini cèilidh projects within a new cluster.	Summer 2026

		There are secondary school pipe bands across Fife.		
3	Increased understanding of Gaelic heritage and culture.	Incorporation of Fife Gaelic locations, Scots overlaps and influences of Fife Gaelic heritage into music projects (fishing and working songs for example) raises awareness and firmly places Gaelic at the heart of people and place.	Gaelic Awareness sessions embedded in communities as part of build up to Ceilidh Mhòr	YMI (with support from CLD) April 2026
4	Adult Learning pathways are clearly promoted using a range of partners and offering learning progression across Fife	An Adult Learning Planning Group was created on 23 rd April 2026 to support planning and to streamline pathways and progression routes for Gaelic learners in Fife. Digital networks of staff and community members have also been created for communication, and these are informing delivery across a range of Gaelic providers.	Create Gaelic Adult Learning and Delivery Partnership Group for Fife	Community Learning and Development (CLD) May 2026
			Gaelic Learning Week to be held in Dunfermline High School with partners	August 2026
			Gaelic Adult Learning is clearly promoted across Fife and is easily available	Community Use Schools
5	Creation of program of events in central venue celebrating learners from all pathways		Gaelic Achievement Celebration in Fife	Gaelic Adult Learning Partnership / CLD November 2026

6	Recruit at least 2 Tutors to work in Fife over the length of this plan	This will be resource dependent.	Identify potential tutors in Fife 1 new tutor already delivering from August 25. Additional recruitment will take place Autumn 26	Workers Educational Association (WEA) Autumn 2026
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B. Learning Gaelic

	Area of Focus	Current Practice	Action	Responsibility & Timescale
7	Update and maintenance of clear points of information and access for families considering Gaelic Medium Education	Gaelic Medium Education is promoted on Fife Council website.	Publicise any changes to the Statutory guidance following Languages Act 2025	Education Ongoing basis
8	Support to families requesting Gaelic Medium Education	Gaelic Medium Education is promoted on Fife Council website	Gaelic Medium Education is promoted on Fife Council website	regular updates to public information on website.
9	Increased number of learners are experiencing Gaelic language and culture. Extend opportunities for Gaelic learning into Secondary Sector in one or two selected areas where Gaelic is already offered in the Primary Cluster	In 24-25 5 primary schools report offering Gaelic as part of their L3 provision. In 25-26 4 schools have been supported through the Gaelic Specific Grant. 4 Teachers have taken part in GLPS in session 25-26. 4 Teachers took part in the Gaelic Live Lessons with their classes. 3 at beginners level and 1 at extension level. 1 teacher has expressed interest in undertaking further National Qualifications in Gaelic. This will be funded through the Gaelic	Annual information sessions will be held to promote GME.	Annual Information Sessions.
			CLD share information with parents through Gaelic events for the pre-school age group such as Book Bug.	Education
			Promote and support access to GLPS programmes, Live Lessons and other professional learning for staff.	Primary support and offer on going.

		<p>Specific Grant in Session 26-27. The Gaelic Specific Grant application also includes funding to support the establishment of a Secondary Gaelic Learners offer. We are in the process of reviewing what will be possible within the constraints of the Grant awarded for 26-27.</p>		
			<p>Work in partnership to reduce barriers and support learning and progression routes across sectors.</p>	<p>Secondary offer to be established within Academic Session 26-27 and to grow over the course of this plan.</p>
			<p>Offer schools additional support with Gaelic language and cultural learning.</p>	<p>The long-term aim is to create demand for National Qualifications and thus establish Gaelic as an L2.</p>

C. Promoting Gaelic

	Area of Focus	Current Practice	Action	Responsibility & Timescale
10	Increased access to Gaelic in a wide range of high quality outdoor, cultural and leisure opportunities	OnFife provide space for any Gaelic conversation group that the Community Development Worker (Gaelic) brings to OnFife venues at DCLG, KG and in St Andrews.	We will make spaces available for and raise awareness of Gaelic conversation groups held at DCLG, KG and venues in St Andrews.	OnFife Promote each session if information given and promotion wanted by the group
		Gaelic conversation group meets in DCLG cafe and then meet for an hour of translation - Community Development Worker (Gaelic) supports.	Raise awareness using posters in OnFife venues and/or using OnFife social media – depending on the needs of the group. Communication with groups is through Community Development Worker (Gaelic) so venues at OnFife respond to information as and when provided.	OnFife Ongoing
		Gaelic conversation group meets in AST cafe every Friday – then they book a room for lesson work - Community Development Worker (Gaelic) supports	Community Development Worker (Gaelic) to explore if regular conversation group in St Andrews Library is feasible, OnFife committed to giving space if/when needed	CLD
		Gaelic conversation group meets in KG cafe every second Friday Community Development Worker (Gaelic) supports Community Development Worker (Gaelic) ran one off event conversation cafe and gave a talk in World Gaelic Week and Gaelic Bookbug Bug – 26 February 2026	Support World Gaelic Week – OnFife provide space and support with	OnFife

		When the Community Development Worker (Gaelic) provides promotional material, it is shared on OnFife social media and/or in OnFife venues.	promotion	
		<p>Current Gaelic stock is purchased annually (NB all stock must adhere to OnFife Stock Management Policy). In 25/26 we encountered an issue with our supplier who did not deliver all orders – now seeking a new supplier. In 25/26 we purchased 22 new books (more had been ordered but issues with supplier). This builds on existing stock of 259 books. We also respond to customer requests for stock purchase (again dependent on Stock Management Policy)</p> <p><i>Current Gaelic items in stock = 281:</i> <i>163 Junior</i> <i>108 Adult</i> <i>4 Carnegie Trust (Ref only at DCLG)</i> <i>6 Local (1 Lending, 5 Local Ref)</i></p>	Increase the number of Junior and Adult Fiction books held in Gaelic collections in Fife and publicise these via social media, in venue library displays and through the conversation group to Gaelic users.	OnFife Purchased as titles become available throughout the year
		OnFife hold a supply of Gaelic Bookbug bags and these are given out on request.	Raise awareness of Gaelic resources via Scottish Book Trust for families with children aged 0-5 via OnFife website and in Bookbug Sessions	OnFife Discussions

		<p>All session leaders have awareness of Gaelic Bookbug resources. Gaelic Bookbug was delivered at DCLG (and Duloch) & KG plus other venues for three years – 2023-2026 by CLD delivered Bookbug sessions, supported by venue teams. Current stop on regular Gaelic Bookbugs due to CLD capacity.</p>	<p>OnFife will work in partnership with CLD Gaelic to explore how/if Gaelic Bookbugs can be included in ongoing provision and/or when Gaelic Bookbugs can be booked for special events for delivery by CLD Gaelic.</p>	<p>August 2027</p>
		<p>Meet with the NHS Promotions Team – once every six months – raise awareness of Gaelic resources as part of this wider meeting.</p>	<p>Meet with the NHS Promotions Team – once every six months – raise awareness of Gaelic resources as part of this wider meeting.</p>	<p>On-Fife Every 6 months</p>
		<p>Currently no Gaelic in temporary exhibitions or engagement with Gaelic conversation groups</p>	<p>Meet with Community Development Worker (Gaelic) to discuss working with the Gaelic community on resources linked to temporary exhibitions</p>	<p>OnFife October 2026</p>
			<p>Work in partnership with CLD Gaelic to engage with the Gaelic community to discuss Gaelic provision in upcoming exhibition at Kirkcaldy Galleries – Making Her Mark, opens June 2027</p>	<p>November 2026 – May 2027</p>

			Continue relationship with CLD Gaelic to develop resources linked with OnFife's programme of temporary exhibitions/displays	Agree in July 2027 annual timetable of activity & area of focus
11	Gaelic recognised as an asset in industries and businesses	Previous work done Work with Economic Development has helped to increase understanding of Gaelic in Fife across the business sector and the promotion of Gaelic friendly businesses	The updated toolkit Gaelic for Tourism - Welcome to Fife For Industry it will be freely available on the Welcome to Fife for Industry website and promoted to businesses through Welcome to Fife business social media channels (Facebook and LinkedIn) and highlighted through the business e-newsletter.	Economy, Planning & Employability Services April 2026
12	Fife is included in National tourism relating to Gaelic language and culture	Previous work was progressed to support Gaelic Tourism in Fife and this can be found a Gaelic for Tourism - Welcome to Fife For Industry	Work with partners to establish clear links between Gaelic and natural assets, in particular place-names of Fife e.g. Fife Pilgrim's Way and the Fife Coastal Path and include within these signs	Fife Coast & Countryside Trust Oct 2029

CORPORATE COMMITMENTS

D. Strengthening Identity

	Area of Focus	Current Practice	Action	Responsibility
13	Increased awareness of Gaelic heritage through historical venues/related activities	Gaelic features in some cultural experiences where businesses have invested.	Work with business and strategic partners to encourage: increasing opportunities to engage with Gaelic in historical venues and improve Gaelic visibility heritage sites Gaelic language/culture experiences for local community and visitors e.g. teaching basic Gaelic as part of the visitor experience including in the Abbey Quarter in Dunfermline to increase opportunities to engage with Gaelic in outdoor activities	Economy, Tourism & Town Centres working with partners and the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust Oct 2029
14	Gaelic is clearly recognisable as an aspect of Fife life including buildings	The words “Fife Council” are integral to the actual design of the council’s corporate logo. It would not be possible to create a logo where Gaelic has equal prominence without a complete rebrand for the organisation. We have created a version of the logo where Comhairle Fhiobha runs underneath the original design. All libraries have dual signage.	Incorporate a Gaelic version of the logo, and clear guidance on how to use it in our corporate branding guidelines. And raise awareness of the guidance.	Communications & Marketing April 2027 ongoing
			Add Gaelic messaging to signs in reception areas of corporate buildings at earliest opportunity, as signage is refreshed.	Facilities Management / Comms & Marketing August 2026 onwards
			Include awareness and use of Gaelic	Facilities

			translation and interpretation services adhering to Gaelic Orthographic Conventions and using Gaelic Place names of Fife and in line with council policy.	Management / Comms & Marketing
			Where 'new' translations are being sought we will engage Ainmean-àite na h-Alba, and other topic-specific areas of expertise to ensure translations are to a suitable standard.	Ongoing

E. Improving Communications

	Area of Focus	Current Practice	Action	Responsibility
15	Increased confidence and awareness of Gaelic in front-line services	Ad hoc provision on request.	Introduce specific Gaelic awareness training for reception staff in all corporate buildings.	Community Development Worker (Gaelic) Facilities Management March 2027
16	Increased visibility of Gaelic language including in correspondence	Guidance and options for including Gaelic in correspondence is available.	Promote use of bi-lingual signature lines as part of corporate communications standards.	Communications & Marketing November 2026
17	Stronger social media connections including in online engagement	Social Media is keeping Gaelic learners up to date with developments and is providing an opportunity for users to provide feedback and share information and ideas Gaelic in Fife on Facebook	Review Gaelic-related social media accounts in Fife and identify community networks to help promote Gaelic opportunities around Fife	Community Development Worker (Gaelic) June 2027
18	Increased awareness of Fife as a welcome destination	Ad hoc promotion.	Annual promotion of Fife's commitment and as a region that welcomes Gaelic speakers and promotes the Gaelic Language as part of Gaelic Week	Community Development Worker (Gaelic) Economy, Tourism & Town Centres March 2027 onwards

F. Enhancing Visibility

	Area of Focus	Current Practice	Action	Responsibility
19	Gaelic is more visible in corporate material and online	Gaelic information is available however visibility could be improved.	Incorporate Gaelic as a community language option on all corporate publications through a refresh of the alternative format process.	Communications & Marketing Customer Services Sept 2027
20	Increased visibility of Gaelic language and opportunities online via the Council website including in digital material	Information is currently available online and some promotion is undertaken particularly during dedicated promotional periods.	Review the current information online in relation to Gaelic language and life and improve Gaelic representation, including better signposting to information and opportunities.	Communications & Marketing team / Customer & Online Services January 2028
21	New ways to promote Gaelic through everyday school life are introduced	Schools have ongoing promotions throughout the year however none focus on Gaelic.	Gaelic is promoted through special theme lunch days in schools including bilingual lunch menus and Gaelic theme days	Facilities April 2028

G. Developing the Workforce

	Area of Focus	Current Practice	Action	Responsibility
22	Increase the number of confident Gaelic users across Fife Council services	Staff survey, awareness session and pop up events The Oracle system has no capacity to record language skills of staff, any information added is voluntary	Identify Fife Council employees with Gaelic at any level; this will be carried out at the point of employment to ensure a continual inclusion and updating of Gaelic skills within the Council.	HR Ongoing
			Increase Gaelic awareness across Fife Council services by improving information on the intranet and signposting	HR Ongoing
			Inclusion of Gaelic awareness within existing equality, culture or induction learning	HR Ongoing
			Signposting of voluntary Gaelic learning opportunities as part of ongoing professional development, delivered through Community Learning and Development or external partners	HR Ongoing
			Audit of Fife Council staff who have Gaelic skills	HR (timescale to be added following CET approval)

23	Increased visibility of Gaelic within recruitment advertising, Council publications and online material including statement that Gaelic skills are valued		Review and agree standard recruitment wording to the Fife Council career site welcoming applications from those with Gaelic skills and add specifically to individual adverts where Gaelic is essential and ensure advertisements in those cases are promoted bilingually.	HR Ongoing
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6 Monitoring our Progress

Progress against this Plan will be monitored annually and reported on as part of Fife Council's Equality Priorities Plan 2025–2029, which is reported on formally every two years. This will provide information on:

- Progress against the commitments in this Plan
- Engagement with the Gaelic community is being strengthened
- A monitoring report will also be provided to Bord na Gàidhlig annually.

7 Feedback and how to get involved

There is a growing Gaelic community in Fife and there are many ways for people in Fife to engage with Gaelic, whether they are fluent speakers or new learners. These include:

- Attending Gaelic classes through Community Learning, Community Use Schools and the Workers' Educational Association
- Signing up to the Gaelic mailing list for information on learning and community activity
- Joining the Fife Gaelic Development Group
- Expressing interest in Gaelic learning in schools or Gaelic Medium Education

Feedback on this plan, the provision outlined and suggestions for improvement is welcome at any stage and will be considered as part of the regular cycle of review.

Follow our social media accounts for updates on Gaelic Development within Fife:

[Gaelic in Fife on Facebook](#)
[Gaelic In Fife - YouTube](#)
[Instagram](#)