



Education
Scotland
Foghlam Alba

LANGS

Scots Language

What is it? Where is it and whaur tae nixt?

Bruce Eunson – Scots Language Co-ordinator

Scots as a language of prominent dialects – our 100 words resources are popular

Vocabulary sheets

These Scots words, phrases, and grammatical features can be enlarged, printed, and placed in windows or other locations round the school. Learners can work in threes to find and record as many as possible.

Learners can use the Concise Scots Dictionary, the [online Scots Dictionary](#) or the following vocabulary sheet to find definitions. Words generally need to be heard or said at least seven times before they will enter the learners' vocabulary.

[East Central South Scots \(Word\)](#)

[West Central Scots \(Word\)](#)

[Caithness Scots \(Word\)](#)

[North East Scots/ Doric \(Word\)](#)

[Orkney Scots \(Word\)](#)

[Shetland \(Word\)](#)

[Dundonian Scots \(Word\)](#)

[Galloway \(Word\)](#)

[Borders Scots \(Word\)](#)

Verbs (action words) in Dundonian
belt or batter
bide
birl
brak
chap
cannae
clap
cowp
dae
doot
fleg
footer (aboot)
goin
greet
hud
hiv
ken
mak
mind

fleur	flower	floer
rester	stay	bide
un	one	een
un foulard	Scarf	a gravit
vieux (m)	old	aald
vieille (f)		
enfant	child	bairn
quatra	four	fower
un Jean	trousers	breeks
doux	two	twaa

Scots Education in 2025 – A growing sector

- Scots today is studied in many ways across the curriculum, from Early Years to the Senior Phase
- Most commonly it is taught within Literacy, focussing on Listening & Talking, Reading & Writing
- Creative writing is increasingly popular, many Senior Phase learners choose to write their main folio piece in Scots
- Many schools deliver Scots lessons in a History and Social Studies context
- Within Languages, it has grown popular as an L3 within 1+2
- 184 Primary Schools, 25 Secondary Schools
- Secondary Schools also offer Scots as a Modern Language option within the department as a subject choice



This briefing for practitioners is intended to explore the aims and purposes of including the Scots language as part of Curriculum for Excellence. It can also be used to inform partners, learners and their parents and carers about the Scots language.

CfE Briefing ¹⁷

Curriculum for Excellence: Scots Language

With its various dialects, Scots forms an integral part of Scotland's heritage and cultural life, playing a vital role in children's and young people's learning about Scotland. It can also make a strong contribution to the development of children's and young people's literacy skills. Including Scots as part of Curriculum for Excellence can help motivate some learners and their families by showing them that the language they use at home is valued. This briefing provides background information about the nature of the Scots language, the learning opportunities and benefits offered by the inclusion of Scots in the curriculum. It explores how Scots is developing across educational establishments as part of Curriculum for Excellence, within literacy and languages and across the wider curriculum.

1. What is Scots Language?

Scots is one of the three indigenous languages of Scotland. It is commonly used in everyday speech, in literature and in song. Often used in the workplace and at home, Scots is also occasionally heard in broadcasting. In the 2011 census, 1.5 million people reported that they use the Scots language. In September 2015, the Scottish Government launched its Scots Language Policy, in both [English](#) and [Scots](#), to recognise the important role that school education has in promoting the use of Scots. One aim of the policy is to "promote the acquisition, use and development of Scots in education, media, publishing and the arts". The policy contains an appendix that details Education Scotland's Action Plan for further developing Scots language in education.

November 2015



Current legislation – Gaelic and Scots thriving together



30 Tha a' chòir agam a bhith a' bruidhinn mo chànan fhèin agus a bhith a' leantainn dòigh beatha mo theaghlach

Scottish Languages Bill

The Bill gives the Gaelic and Scots languages official status in Scotland and makes changes to the support for the Gaelic and Scots languages in Scotland. This includes changes in relation to Gaelic and Scots education.

Tha am Bile a' toirt inbhe oifigeil do Ghàidhlig agus Scots ann an Alba agus a' dèanamh atharrachaidhean air an taic a chuirear ris a' Ghàidhlig agus Scots ann an Alba. Tha seo a' gabhail a-steach atharrachaidhean mu fhoghlam Gàidhlig agus Scots.

The Bill gives the Gaelic and Scots leids official staunin in Scotland an maks chynges tae the uphauidin o the Gaelic and Scots leids in Scotland. This includes chynges in relation tae Gaelic an Scots education.

UNCRC Incorporation Act

- **The Articles linked to an aspect of Gaelic or Scots Education**
- **Article 28** Encourage development of different forms of secondary education
- **Article 29** Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.
- **Article 30** Children from minority and indigenous groups
- **“Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.” Article 30**
- **Article 31** The right to play, rest and leisure

Scots CPD – delivered in partnership with Open University

- The place of Scots today is a policy u-turn from what it was when many teachers were at school or when they did their training – so professional learning and tailored support are essential
- We run Masters level CPD in partnership with the Open University, with currently 300 teachers enrolled
- This course, which we created and we deliver in partnership, was awarded GTCS recognition – and that certificate was given special mention Parliament by MSP Emma Harper
- Teachers come to the course from a variety of backgrounds, but can roughly be split into fairly even thirds – Primary teachers, Secondary English teachers and Secondary teachers of a variety of other subjects. Of the Secondary teachers, many are delivering the SQA Scots Language Award or Scottish Studies Award



Thank you

Any questions?

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