

## Parents' Guide / FAQ's - Last Updated 28th Nov 2019

The parent council has put together a list of the most common names, acronyms and terms that you will hear as parents of children in Gaelic Medium Education (GME) and incorporated answers to the most common questions

You will find more information on the school website: <http://taobhnapairce.co.uk/> and in the school handbook <http://www.taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk/index.php/leabhar-laimhe-na-ngoile-school-handbook/>

There are some useful Gaelic learning and support apps and websites below and educational resources and information on Gaelic learning and groups on the 'Gaelic Resources' document in the Parent Council Facebook group. Hard copies of these booklets are available in the school reception

### Absence

If your child is absent from school, please leave a phone message on the school office's answer phone **0131 553 5856 (option 1)** before the start of the school day, confirming the reason for absence. If there is no explanation from a child's parents, the absence will be regarded as unauthorised. There is more detail on the school policy for absence, including holiday and extended absence on **page 14** of the [school handbook](#)

### Active Schools

<https://www.joininedinburgh.org/venue/344/>

Active Schools works with organisations and individuals, including PE staff, sports development officers and local clubs, to provide a wide range of opportunities connected to physical education, school sport and club sport. Taobh na Pàirce is in the Drummond cluster

### After school club

See Ògan

### Apps & Gaelic Learning Support

There are a number of organisations offering support with Gaelic Learning. The resources available change all the time. The Parent Council has put together a 'Support for Parents' handbook, available in hard copy in the leaflet stands at reception and as a download from the closed facebook group.

These are a great start:

### Abair Abairtean!

Aimed especially at parents with children in GME (early stages), the app has a range of simple phrases you can use in the home and outside playing. Each phrase has accompanying audio and "phonetic" spelling, as well as a colourful image

[Google Play](#)

[iTunes](#)

### **Duolingo!**

Duolingo is a free language learning app. Learn Scottish Gaelic in just 5 minutes a day. For free!

[https://www.duolingo.com/course/gd/en/Learn-Scottish%20Gaelic?fbclid=IwAR2rylgxCK7H62e4nHQ34u7xqXyj6tmrv5jsq-9yEa1u6EDX\\_eH4QMmqOLI](https://www.duolingo.com/course/gd/en/Learn-Scottish%20Gaelic?fbclid=IwAR2rylgxCK7H62e4nHQ34u7xqXyj6tmrv5jsq-9yEa1u6EDX_eH4QMmqOLI)

### **Gaelic 4 Parents**

An online Gaelic education resource for parents and children interested and involved in Gaelic education. This site is bursting with games, stories, audio and much more to help you enjoy the experience of learning Gaelic, whatever your age or ability and has audio recordings of most of the books your child will bring home from school

<https://www.gaelic4parents.com>

### **Gaelic Sight Words – Faclan Cumanta 1**

Audio files for common words on the school website

<http://www.taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk/index.php/category/parental-support-taic-pharantan/>

### **Go Gaelic!**

This site supports teachers following the Gaelic Language Learning (GLL) Training Course and who have little or no knowledge of Gaelic. The site has audio files and classroom resources that parents may find helpful

<https://go-gaelic.scot/>

### **Assembly**

These happen once a week in the school hall. They are a chance for the Head teacher to pass on information to pupils, discuss a range of topics and celebrate achievements

### **Blogs**

If you want to know more about what your child is doing day to day, the [blogs page](#) is a good place to start! If the Blogs page is blank, hover over the Blogs menu button and select the relevant blog from the drop-down menu

### **Breakfast Club**

See Òganan

### **Break Time**

At the time of writing, the school runs 2 break times. 10.30-10.45 for the younger ones and 10.35-10.50 for the older. For up to date timings, please contact the office [admin@taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk)

### **Bòrd na Gàidhlig**

<http://www.gaidhlig.scot/bord/about-us/>

Scotland's national Gaelic language body, responsible for promoting the development of Gaelic language and culture

### **Christmas cards**

Each year pupils get the chance to design their own Christmas card which is professionally printed. Parents/families can buy their child's cards. This is a fun fundraiser for the school; it is run by the parent council and starts in the autumn term

### **Christmas fair/ Fèill na Nollaig**

Held early December in the school gym hall and has a range of stalls and a Santa Grotto. The fair is run by the parent council; it is a big fundraiser and lots of fun, if you'd like to help please email [chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk](mailto:chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk)

### **Comann nam Pàrant (CnP) – The National Organisation supporting parents and carers of Gaelic Learners**

<https://cnpduneideannblog.wordpress.com/>

The national organisation which offers advice and support on Gaelic medium education. CnP supports the school, the Parent Council and the parent body

We recommend you sign up to their mailing list here: <http://gaelic-education.us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=9db9997f05e2731f69081512d&id=2b4d3fd0f0>

### **Comhairle nam Pàrant – The Parent Council**

<http://www.parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk/>

Supports the school in its development and its day to day life. Fosters a strong home/school connection. Updates the parent body about events and developments within the school and is the voice of the parents in the school. A new website is under development

### **Communication**

**The school contacts parents/carers via:**

**ParentMail:** a secure email client also available as an App

**School Blogs:** on the [blogs page](#) of the school website. If the Blogs page is blank, hover over the Blogs menu button and select the relevant blog from the drop-down menu

Very occasionally letters or forms that require parent/career signatures are sent home in bags

You are invited to contact the school by phone, letter or e mail. If your communication relates to a specific child, please contact initially the head of pastoral care for the relevant year group. The school website holds up to date information on the heads of pastoral care: <http://www.taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk/index.php/fios-feumail-useful-info/fios-thugainn-contact-us/>

Phone: 0131 553 5856

Email: [admin@taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk)

Address: 139 Bonnington Rd, Edinburgh EH6 5NQ

### **The parent council contacts parents/carers via:**

ParentMail

The Class Reps via email

The closed Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ComhairleNamParantTaobhNaPairce/>

### **Cròileagan - Gaelic medium Playgroup**

<http://www.gaelicplaygroup.com/>

Playgroups for children under five to introduce Gaelic to young children and their parents and carers, through games and song

### **Easyfundraising**

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bunsgoiltaobhnapirce/>

Easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for the school. Just start your online shopping first at easyfundraising, then shop as normal. Retailers make a small donation on top of every penny spent. Easy!

### **EME**

English Medium Education

### **Facebook**

See **Communication**. Facebook is not a form of home/school communication, please contact the school directly with any issues surrounding school policy, procedure and practice

### **First Aid**

The school first aid and medicines policy and procedure can be found on **page 30** of the [school handbook](#)

### **Free school meals**

Information on free school meals can be found on **page 18** of the [school handbook](#)

### **Fundraising & Events**

The school produces a calendar at the start of the school year detailing the dates that have been confirmed in advance. Parents organise a range of events throughout the year, including Summer & Christmas Fairs, Cinema Night, Halloween Disco, Ceilidhs and Concerts. If you would like to get involved in any of our events or have an idea for something new for us to run email [tnpfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:tnpfundraising@gmail.com)

### **Gaelic Learning Support**

See 'Apps & Gaelic Learning Support'

### **GIG - Gaelic Implementation Group**

A mix of council employees, Gaelic representatives and parents, instrumental in shaping and informing the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan

### **GLP - Gaelic Language Plan**

A government provision committed to developing the use of the Gaelic language and sustaining it

### **GME - Gaelic Medium Education**

Bun-Sgoil Taobh na Pàirce follows a GME curriculum

### **Gym bags**

Send a gym kit, named in a bag with your child at the start of the year. They are usually stored on your child's peg. Teachers often remind the pupils to take the kit home at the end of a term for you to wash it, though they are busy! A list of suitable kit can be found on **page 16** of the [school handbook](#)

### **Holiday**

You can find term and holiday dates in the [school calendar](#) and on **page 13** of the [school handbook](#). There is more detail on the school policy for holiday, including absence and extended absence on **page 14** of the [school handbook](#)

### **Homework**

**Reading homework** goes home regularly, from C2 onwards, with the reading diary being used to share tasks and feedback between home and school. Some tasks may involve the use of the BookBug or Giglets online reading programmes. **Homework mats** for Numeracy and Mathematics and Gaelic Literacy are sent home each term. **Page 60** of the [school handbook](#) has up to date information on homework.

### **In Service Days**

Days when staff are in but pupils are not, usually on Mondays or Tuesdays. The Edinburgh Council website holds up to date information on in service days:  
[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20074/schools/20/term\\_dates/2](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20074/schools/20/term_dates/2)

### **Lost Property**

The school are keen that pupils learn the importance of taking responsibility for their belongings... But we also recommend that you label everything! The school lost property policy and procedure is:

- A box for unnamed items is kept at front door of the school, opposite the janitors room. The box is accessible to parents/careers and pupils and can be checked regularly. Please remember to check lost property in Òganan too.
- A small group of parents manage lost property on Friday mornings; date labelling items, taking pictures of lost items and sharing them on ParentMail, displaying lost property at school events and allocating items that have been in lost property for a month or more to pre-loved uniform for sale to other parents at the school, or to the national school uniform bank, or to charity
- On the following Monday, the C7 reunite labelled items with their owners

If you would be able to help the lost property team, you can contact them via [Facebook](#) or email [chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk](mailto:chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk)

### **Lunches - Ordering**

School lunches are ordered and paid for via ParentPay (more about ParentPay later in the guide). The ordering deadline is the end of Wednesday (at midnight) the week before lunches are taken. Lunches can be ordered up to 100 days in advance. More information can be found on **page 18** of the [school handbook](#). The current school dinner menu is available on the [school website](#)

### **Lunchtime**

Lunchtimes are staggered:

C1-C2 - 1 2:20 – 13:40

C6 – 12:00-12:45

C3 –7 - 12:20-13:00 - 12:20-13:05

### **Milk**

If you wish, you can order milk for your child to have at school. Milk is paid for in advance by term or for the whole year, pupils get a carton each day. Those getting free school meals (outside of P1-P3) can get milk free of charge too. Please contact the school office for more information

### **Medicine**

The school policy on medicine administration can be found on **page 30** of the [school handbook](#). There is a form to complete. No medication can be administered without the completed form. If your child needs medicine to be administered during school hours, please contact the school office in the first instance

**Òganan** - [http://oganan.com/?page\\_id=47](http://oganan.com/?page_id=47)

Provides Edinburgh and the Lothians with a unique Gaelic-medium wraparound childcare facility for pre and primary school children

## **Parent Consultations**

Parent consultations are arranged twice yearly for parents/carers to discuss progress with their child's teacher. These are in autumn and in spring. The school will contact you when it is time to book an appointment

**Parent Council** - <http://www.parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk/>

The Parent Council invites any parent or carer to get involved in a range of activities to benefit our children. We meet every 6-8 weeks during term time, but you don't need to attend a meeting to get involved. Email [chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk](mailto:chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk)

## **Parent Groups**

There are a number of parent groups working on behalf of the parents to support the school, the pupils and their families. If any of these groups are of interest to you, get in touch, they'd be happy to hear from you. Have an idea for a group of your own? Come and chat to us about it! [chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk](mailto:chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk)

TnP Wraparound Group (and afterschool care)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1182648308602113/>

TnP Eco Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1084364235287513/>

TnP Events and Fundraising Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1320954044740615/>

TnP Playground Gardening group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/112500786257415/>

TnP Lost Property Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2295640150752383/>

TnP Active Travel & Road Safety Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/992843157774606/>

TnP Mental Health & Well-being Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2253713804737933/>

If you'd rather avoid Facebook, please email [chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk](mailto:chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk) and we'll put you in touch.

## **ParentPay**

The system used by school to collect money for school meals and to book school meals, including packed lunches for days out. The school will give you instructions on how to set up your ParentPay account. Please contact the school office if you are experiencing any difficulty with this system [admin@taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk)

## **Pupil Council – Pupil Voice**

Pupil Voice is the school Pupil Council, consisting of elected pupils from C1-7, meets regularly with the Head Teacher to take forward pupils' views on all aspects of school life. Regular updates are posted on the [blogs page](#) and are part of the Headteacher updates at Parent Council meetings.

### **School Bus**

All pupils who live within the City of Edinburgh and more than two miles walking distance from Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce are currently entitled to free transport. Please contact the office for more details and information [admin@taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk)

### **School Clubs**

The parent council, the school and Active Schools collectively run a number of clubs and activities for pupils both in and out of school time, including sports, coding, languages and music

For more information check the parent council website

<http://www.parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk/>

The school Website

<http://www.taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk/index.php/activities/>

If this page is blank, hover over the 'Our School' menu button and select 'The Life of the School' from the drop-down menu; or use these shortcuts:

[Music](#) - [Clàrsach](#) - [National Mòd](#)

[Sport](#) - [Shinty Club](#)

Or contact the office

[admin@taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@taobhnapairce.edin.sch.uk)

If you have an idea for a new school club or activity, email

[chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk](mailto:chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk)

### **School Hours**

#### **C1-C7**

08:55 – 15:20 Monday to Thursday

08:55 – 12:30 Friday

Please note that there is no supervision in the playground until 8:45 am

#### **Sgoil-àraich AM**

08:45 – 11:55 OR

08:30 – 12:30

#### **Sgoil-àraich PM**

12:35- 15:45

These times are correct at the time of writing. For the most up to date information, please check **page 12** of the [school handbook](#)

### **School meals**

See 'Lunches - Ordering'



**School photos**

Photos are either taken of individuals and family groups or as full class portraits. The school will give advance notice of the date and type

**School term**

For term dates in the current school year, check the [school calendar](#) on the school website

**Sgoil Àraich - Gaelic medium nursery**

<http://www.gaelicplaygroup.com/sgoil-araich-edinburghs-gaelic-nursery/>

A council-run, Gaelic medium nursery, for children of 3+. Many children go on to Sgoil Àraich from Cròileagan, but it's not compulsory

**Sports Day**

This is usually held in the summer. The school will confirm the date nearer to the event

**School Lottery**

The fundraising lottery is a fun and effective way to raise money for our school. Each ticket enters you into two draws every week - a guaranteed cash prize for one of our supporters, plus a jackpot prize draw for £25,000. For more information or to sign up, go to:

[www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/bun-sgoil-taobh-na-pairce](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/bun-sgoil-taobh-na-pairce)

**The Parent Body/Parent Forum**

You, the parents

**Uniform**

For current uniform guidelines, check the [school website](#)

**Water bottle**

We recommend your child brings in a full water bottle each day and we recommend that you name it!