



Dear Parents and Carers,

An external validation visit was undertaken at Bunscoil Ghaelgah on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025 as part of a programme of external validation visits of schools and educational services commissioned by the Isle of Man Department of Education, Sport and Culture (DESC).

During the visit, the external validation team considered key areas of focus which were explored in collaboration with the school leaders to validate school leaders' own evaluations, and the following areas of strength, growth and development were identified.

The following areas of strength were identified during the external validation visit:

- Bunscoil Ghaelgah is a school with a strong, distinctive identity as the world's only Manx language immersion school. This cultural and linguistic identity is central to school life and contributes to learners' confidence, creativity and sense of belonging.
- The school is a calm, inclusive learning environment where relationships are central. Staff have worked with care to create spaces that support and encourage positive behaviour and help children to manage their emotions. Your children demonstrate respect and a sense of ownership of their school. They are known well by staff, who adopt an approach underpinned by trust. *Shamyr Chiune*, the school's nurture space, offers a calm, supportive environment for children to reflect when needed.
- Personal development is thoughtfully embedded across all aspects of school life. Your children take on leadership roles, from co-running clubs like Manx dancing and *Club Gareydys* (the school's gardening club), to representing the school in events such as the Manx Folk awards and whole school productions which are accessed by the wider Manx language community.
- Moments of shared celebration are woven through the school day. During the visit, staff and all learners gathered together to dance on the playground. It was a joyful moment that captured the spirit of community, culture and connection that runs through the school.
- There is a strong sense of collaboration, both within the school and beyond. Your children benefit from a wide range of opportunities supported by community partnerships. These experiences build confidence, creativity and develop a strong sense of social responsibility.
- Staff articulate and share a sense of shared purpose. There is a thoughtful focus on strengthening approaches to leadership, curriculum and teaching in ways that reflect the school's values. Staff's professional development supports this by helping staff to reflect and refine their approaches in ways that align with the school's values and aspirations.

The following areas of growth and development were identified during the external validation visit:

- The school will continue to focus on refining the curriculum with a particular focus on the progression of skills and knowledge.
- Leaders will continue to strengthen assessment to assess your children's progress, to further celebrate children's achievement and inform future planning.
- The school is continuing to grow leadership across all levels so that staff work together with a shared understanding and commitment of continued improvement, introducing ways of working to ensure all learners receive consistent, high-quality support and learning experiences.
- Leaders continue to provide professional development opportunities for all staff to allow the sharing of best practice, which will provide ideas and approaches that will benefit all learners.

The aim of the external validation visit was to promote continuous improvement and to deliver consistency, share best practice and deliver positive outcomes for children and young people. The visit was undertaken by an independent external validation team from Etio.

The external validation team looked at a wide range of evidence presented by school leaders, including the school self-evaluation, and sampled the work of the school during the visit. These activities were focussed on key areas based on the self-evaluation of the school and included visits to a cross-section of lessons, meetings with staff and learners, gathering the views of parents and carers and where appropriate scrutiny of documentation.

The areas of growth and development identified, as part of the external validation visit are being reviewed and actioned by the school as part of a continuous cycle of self-evaluation, further detail can be found by visiting the school website, with regards to the school's key priorities and focus areas for the academic year.

Kind regards

Adam Lowing  
Lead Validator

External Validation Team