

Dear Parents and Carers,

An external validation visit was undertaken at Yn Skimmee Gaelgagh (The Manx Language Service) on the 3rd February 2026 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 service leaders to validate service 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:

- The service makes a strong contribution to learners' sense of identity, pride and belonging. This connection to Manx culture has a positive impact on engagement and confidence.
- Provision is inclusive and flexible, with learners able to access Manx language learning either through full-immersion lessons or through visiting specialist teachers, available in both primary and secondary schools. This means every child has a fair opportunity to learn the language, regardless of which school they attend or their individual need.
- Teaching is characterised by strong subject knowledge, enthusiasm and high expectations. Learning environments are positive and purposeful, helping learners experience Manx as a living, relevant language that supports creativity, expression and enjoyment.
- Evidence from QEII shows that learners studying subjects through Manx achieve outcomes that match or exceed those of their peers. This is because the curriculum is well-designed, carefully planned and supported by assessments that help teachers understand how each learner is progressing.
- Leadership is shared across the service, with teachers contributing actively to development, innovation and improvement. Strong partnership working, particularly with subject leaders at QEII, supports and ensures the curriculum is joined up, thought through and continually improving. This collaborative approach supports teachers' reflective practice and leads to better outcomes for learners.



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

- Continue to strengthen the Manx in Key Stage 2 to ensure learners are confident and well prepared for their continued Manx language learning at Key Stage 3 and beyond.
- Develop assessment approaches to better inform future teaching and learning and to support learners' progress over time.
- Continue to develop clear pathways to support learners to continue learning the Manx language throughout their entire educational journey.
- Leaders continue to develop the service in a careful and ambitious way, with well-planned improvements that are carried out to ensure consistent practice and a long-term positive impact for 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 service leaders, including the service self-evaluation, and sampled the work of the service during the visit. These activities were focussed on key areas based on the self-evaluation of the service 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 service as part of a continuous cycle of self-evaluation, further detail can be found by visiting the service website, with regards to the service's key priorities and focus areas for the academic year.

Kind regards,

Adam Lowing

Lead Validator

External Validation Team