

From mountain to sea

Aberdeenshire Council – Scots Leid Guidelines

(Scots Doric Translation - Aberdeen Varsity Elphinstone Institute)

The Scots leid is an essential part o the culture an heirskip o Scotland. In the Nor-East o Scotland (Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, Kincardineshire, Moray), Scots is kent as Doric an will be kent as Doric hereafter in o this document.

Aberdeenshire Council will gie a heeze tae an support Doric, encouragin the respeck an recognition o't sae that it can be made eese o an appreciated in aa neuks o life, nae jist spukken in the hame, the wey it's mainly eesed by many fowk eynoo. Aberdeenshire Council specifically supports engagement wi Doric in aa 3–18 educational airts.

Doric in Context

Doric is important tae the communities o the Nor-East as it is the ilkae-day spukken leid an for cultural heirskip throwe its eese in scribevin, poetry an sangs. Doric is heard ilkae day at wark an ither places o larnin aa ower the Nor-East. Doric is the leid that many students spik an bring intae their places o learnin.

2011 Census

The 2011 Census records that mair nor 1.5 million fowk (30% o the population) spik Scots. In Aberdeenshire this cam tae 119,078 fowk – 49% o the population ower the age o 3 (equal heichest tae Shetland Islands Council). A farrer brakdoon by CAS Wards (Census Area Statistics Wards), Appendix 1, shows that in many areas o the North-East maist fowk spik Scots.

Scottish Government Policy

In September 2015, the Scottish Government launched its Scots Leid Policy (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/ArtsCultureSport/arts/Scots/ScotsLanguagePolicy/ScotsLanguagePolicy-English>). The first-aff Ministerial statement gies a commitment tae gie a heeze tae the profile o the Scots Leid, support Scots, recognise its valuable heirskip an promote its popularity an recognition. The policy recognises Scots as an essential part o the culture and heirskip o Scotland, a weel kent aspect o sang, poetry an scribevin, an a recognised feature o the wey we express oorsels in oor community life.

Cooncil o European Leids Charter

The Scots leid is covered by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Leids (see Appendix 2). Part II, Article 7, Objectives an Principles, highlights that kintras that hiv signed up tae the Charter hiv an obligation tae foun their policies, legislation, an practice on a nummer o key objectives an principles, includin the follaein:

- The recognition o the regional or minority leids as an expression o cultural wealth;
- The need for stinch darg tae promote regional or minority leids in order tae safeguaird them – tae keep them fae deein oot;
- The facilitation an/or encouragement o the eese o regional or minority leids
- in spikin an scribevin, in baith public an private life;
- The provision o the richt weys an means for the teachin an study o regional or minority leids at aa the richt stages;
- The provision o facilities tae help fowk fa canna spik the regional or minority language, fa bide in the area far it is made eese o, tae larn tae spik it, if they wid like till.

Doric in Education

The 'Curriculum for Excellence Principles and Practices' state that, 'It is expected that practitioners will build upon the diversity of language represented within the communities of Scotland, valuing the languages which children and young people bring to school.' Key themes in the English an Literacy curriculum direct teachers tae, 'engage with a broad range of increasingly complex texts, including Scottish and Scots texts'.

Education Scotland launched their Scots Leid Policy in pairtnership wi the Scottish Government an are committed tae developin the place o Scots in education. The Curriculum for Excellence highlights Scots as a key pairt o bairns' education. Teachers an young fowk are finnin oot that larnin in Scots can gie them fun an constructive weys in tae leid an literacy. In their Annual Review o 2015/16, Education Scotland focused on Scots as a case study for fulfillin Strategic Objective 1: 'Building a world-class curriculum for a learners in Scotland.' In Aiberdeenshire we are proud tae hae many examples o innovative an effective practice tae support an promote Doric.

In the Curriculum for Excellence general-education Scots leid is suitable for inclusion in the curriculum as an L3 leid, makin skweels able tae acknowledge an celebrate the linguistic an cultural heirskip o their larners. In an Aiberdeenshire context, this can involve studyin the haill o Scotland, or it can be specifically the cultural heirskip an regional variety o Scots unique tae Aiberdeenshire. Doric his many unique features tae its grammar an a rich reenge o unique wirds, sufficiently fulfillin the requirements o an L3 language in the 1+2 Language Policy (Appendix 3). Cultural an historical aspects o Doric lykwise gie larners gran opportunities tae larn about Aiberdeenshire an Scotland, leadin on tae cross-curricular larnin.

In the Curriculum for Excellence senior phase, the SQA offers twa courses, the Scottish Studies Award an a Scots Leid Award. Baith gie opportunities for secondary pupils tae engage in Scots leid an gain qualifications. Education Scotland has developed a hale rowth o resources for Scots leid an noo has a Scots Language Coordinator tae support Scots Learnin.

Doric in Culture

Aiberdeenshire Cooncil's Place Pairtnership wi Creative Scotland celebrates this neuk's rare cultural heirskip, includin the Doric leid, scribevin, an traditional music, assets whilk are unique tae the airt an promote a strang sense o identity.

Focusin on these thematic areas o wark gies opportunities for local communities an creatives tae bigg an engage in artistic programmes whilk will reinvigorate distinctive stories linked tae local culture. As weel as makin a significant contribution tae the development an promotion o creative placies an culture-led regeneration.

Doric Rationale, Development & Entitlements

Aiberdeenshire Cooncil recognises the value o experiencin Doric in aa airts o Scottish life, specifically education. Larners hae a richt tae engage wi Doric at school as een o the three official indigenus leids o Scotland, as recognised by the Cooncil o Europe Charter on Regional or Minority Languages, the UK government an the Scottish Government.

Aiberdeenshire Cooncil values Doric as an important pairt o the intangible cultural heirskip (leid, sang, poetry, scrievin) o the Nor-East o Scotland. Doric is thrang in local communities an wirkplaces, an for mony larners is the leid they bring tae the classroom. Larners maun be recognised for being bilingual an win the chauce tae develop these skills in their larnin.

Aiberdeenshire Cooncil regards Doric, in baith scribed an spukken forms, tae be a valid means o communication. Aiberdeenshire Cooncil will tyauve tae see that larners fa his Doric as their first leid at hame an wi freens are nae disadvantaged at school in terms o self-esteem, access tae the curriculum, achievin an gettin on at skweel tae realise their potential. Fowk fa dinna spik Doric will share in the benefits o engagin wi Doric an get a chauce tae larn tae spik it, giein them the nott skills for the world o wark an life-lang larnin.

Aiberdeenshire Cooncil recognises the educational benefits o makin sure that Doric is embedded intae the curriculum across aa educational establishments. Engagement wi Doric potentially benefits learners by:

- Contributin till closin the attainment gap an improvin achievement;
- Biggin self-esteem;
- Reezin oot inclusion;
- Developin scrievin an leid skills in different contexts;
- Biggin pairtnership links atween skweels, the hame, an pairnts;
- Encouragin links atween generations an links wi the local community;
- Promotin an supportin community weel-bein;
- Promotin weel-bein an providin fun an enjoyment;
- Developin empathy wi their ain an ithers' cultures
- Fosterin global citizenship alangside Scotland's place in the world
- Fosterin creativity, developin an appreciation for local culture an heirskip

In order tae bigg up the status o Doric, Aiberdeenshire Cooncil will:

- Create awareness amang stakeholder groups that Doric (Nor-East Scots) is een o the three historical indigenus leids o Scotland an should hae equal respeck;
- Create mair awareness o the expectations an opportunities related tae Doric in Curriculum for Excellence documents;
- Support a Doric Workin Group tae promote Doric in educational establishments;
- Share guid practice in larnin related tae Doric amang 3-18 educational establishments;
- Share guid practice o the Scottish Studies Award an Scots Leid Award provision offert in skweels in Aiberdeenshire an ootby, encouragin ither skweels tae tak it up an aa.
- Encourage pairtnerships an wirkin thegither atween aa the groups an bodies wi an interest in supportin Scots leid (Education Scotland; Historic Scotland; Historic Environment Scotland; Aiberdeen Varsity's Elphinstone

Institute; Robert Gordon University; University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), BBC, STV, local media outlets, Aiberdeen Toun and Shire Tourism Pairtnership (ATP); Scots Leid Centre; Into Film);

- Develop a formal pairtnership wi Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o Riches tae gie oor skweels an communities the benefits o this excellent resource tae help support the larnin an teachin o Doric;
- Encourage adult larnin centres tae offer the Scots Leid Award;
- Wirk wi Education Scotland tae develop CLPL trainin for teachers anent Scots;
- Access support materials for the Scots Leid Award fae Education Scotland an SQA websites, encouragin sharin o ither resources developed by teachers

Aiberdeenshire Learnin Establishments

The Early Years Settins, 3–5

- Early Years establishments will mak environments that are rich in Doric experiences e.g., bonnie waa displays, plenty buiks an environmental wark, developin activities for role play an plan Doric experiences that are o heich quality an are firmly a pairt o the bairnies' play;
- Throwe games, rhymes, sangs, stories, roleplay, etc., mak sure there's a Doric focus on the development o wirds, leid awareness, an phonological skills.

Primary and Secondary Schools, 5–18

- Create environments far bairns are exposed tae a wealth o Doric an Scots texts, buiks, picturs an spik;
- Recognise an celebrate the bairns' efforts an successes in Doric larnin;
- Use teachin weys that hiv proven tae benefit larners, includin active literacy approaches, co-operative larnin an heicher-order thinkin skills;
- Support an challenge larners tae develop their Doric skills an raxx their understandin;
- Provide larners wi plenty o opportunities tae use the skills they hiv larned in real life an ither relevant weys, aften throwe inter-disciplinary themes;
- Use differentiation o materials an methods tae support the larnin o a bairns in an inclusive wey;
- Mak siccar that staff, as appropriate, hiv time tae tak pairt in professional collaboration an development in their ain skweels an wi ither establishments an boorichs tae develop Doric;
- Mak sure that aa larners unnerstan the importance an purpose o Doric in their lives;
- Support bairns tae think aboot an reflect on their ain larnin an set their ain neist steps;
- Provide larnin chaunces in Doric that are enjoyable an engagin tae steer the bairns tae wint tae be involved an dae weel;
- In secondary, conseederation should be gaein tae offerin the SQA Scots leid award and related units in o the Scottish Studies Award.

Bairns an Young Fowk will hae the richt tae,

- Experience a curriculum enthrowe they larn aboot Doric an the value o Doric in the ilkae day life, culture an history in the Nor-East;
- Develop an unnerstaunin o Doric as an integral pairt o their upbringing an education, an be clear aboot the value an benefits o Doric;
- Opportunities tae engage wi larnin throwe Doric an aboot Doric;
- A larnin environment that recognises an promotes diversity an supports Doric as pairt o this;
- Develop an unnerstaunin o aabody's responsibilities tae value an support minority leids an cultures;
- Ken far tae finn information an get haud o support, makin effective eese o online sources like

Education Scotland - <https://education.gov.scot/>

Tobar an Dualchais – <http://www.tobarandualchais.co.uk/>

Wee-Windaes - <http://wee-windaes.nls.uk/>

Elphinstone Institute - <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone/>

Doric Dictionary - <http://www.doricdictionary.com/>

Centre for the Scots Leid - <http://www.scotslanguage.com/>

- Hae access tae a haill range o pathways throwe senior phase includin larnin opportunities tae study, far appropriate, Doric as a Scots Leid Award qualification.