Language Policy in Scotland
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Scotland’s indigenous languages

• English – since comprehensivisation - 50 years

• Gaelic – protect, stabilise and grow - 35+ years

• Scots - raise profile, value heritage - 2 months
Modern languages pre- 1+2 policy

- French
- German
- Spanish
- Italian
- Urdu
- Mandarin
- Cantonese
A changing landscape

1977  S1/2: Compulsory
      S3/4: Elective but most able ‘should be encouraged’

1987  S1-4: Compulsory

1989  P6-S4: Compulsory

1993  P1-P7: Not considered
      S1-S2: Compulsory

2000  P1-P5: Not compulsory
      P6-S2: Compulsory

2008  S1-S3: ML compulsory - but not sustained in all schools
2011: Scottish Government manifesto commitment

“We will introduce a norm for language learning in schools based on the European Union 1 + 2 model – that is we will create the conditions in which every child will learn two languages in addition to their own mother tongue. This will be rolled out over two Parliaments, and will create a new model for language acquisition in Scotland.”
2012

P1-P7: L1 = mother tongue
L2 compulsory from P1-S3
L3 to be introduced from P5 at the latest (by 2020)
S1-S3: L2 compulsory; L3 required for part of S1-S3
Which languages?

• There is no hierarchy of language

• The first additional language (L2) must be a living language, able to be carried on into secondary school and be available as a National Qualification thereafter

• L3 can be any language. This includes Scots, Latin, sign language, community languages
Funding

• 2012/13 - £4m

• 2013/14 –£5m

• 2014/15 -£7m

• 32 local authorities

• Funding allocated per pupil(approx. 380000 primary pupils in 2056 primary schools)

• Initial audit, annual strategy
Funding used to ...

- Second ML Development Officers in LAs (where there were none previously)
- Support training - blend of in-house and commercial
- Purchase resources- inc MLAs
- Support CLPL eg intensive training
Emerging picture

• Parental positivity
• Enthusiasm and confidence of young language learners
• Primary staff commitment
• Primary-secondary transition in ML planning enhanced
Future considerations

• Initial teacher education courses
• CLPL
• Research
• Evaluation
• Funding
• Policy updates