e-Sgoil

Frequently Asked Questions

Why was e-Sgoil set up?

The e-Sgoil initiative was launched by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in August 2016. Its main purpose was to enhance equity in terms of subject choice for all pupils, irrespective of geographic location or which school they attended in the Western Isles. It was also envisaged as a means of addressing recruitment issues in key subject areas.

On receipt of funding from the Scottish Government and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, this remit took on a national dimension as other local authorities were experiencing similar challenges with regard to Gaelic and STEM subjects in particular.

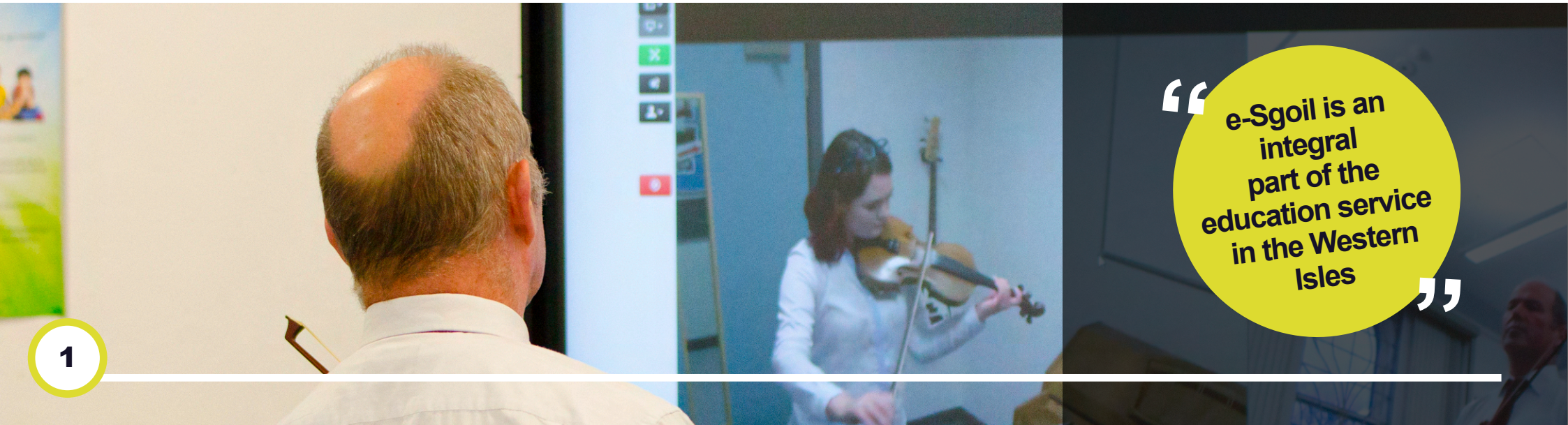
e-Sgoil

Stèidhichte le taic bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba agus Bòrd na Gàidhlig

What is e-Sgoil?

e-Sgoil is an integral part of the education service in the Western Isles. From our bases in Stornoway (Lewis) and Carinish (North Uist) we deploy GTCS registered teachers and current technology to deliver real-time, interactive lessons, to pupils throughout Scotland. We recruit staff, deliver bespoke e-Quip training, teach a wide range of subjects and provide IT back-up for schools which require our services.

e-Sgoil is not an Open University or college style provision for schools.



Does e-Sgoil replace classroom based teachers?

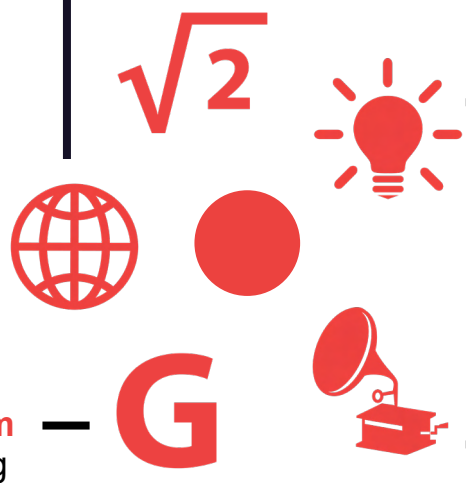
No! e-Sgoil is about promoting equity in terms of subject choice across schools. We do this by providing staff in situations where schools can't be expected to employ a teacher to deliver a particular subject due to low pupil uptake or where there are teacher shortages in areas such as Gaelic and STEM. E-Sgoil can provide teaching input for either whole sessions or on a short-term supply basis.

What subjects are delivered through e-Sgoil?

e-Sgoil responds creatively to demand, delivering a wide range of subjects as and when required. In order to exemplify some options, here are five examples of recent or current provision:

Advanced Higher Maths
5 periods per week (inter-island, Western Isles)

Higher Modern Studies
4 weeks emergency cover (inter-authority, Western Isles / Aberdeenshire)



National 5 Physics
Support for Learning (inter-authority, Highland & Aberdeenshire, Isles / Aberdeenshire)

Primary 1 Gaelic Medium
40 minutes every morning (inter-island, Argyll & Bute)

Fiddle and Chanter Tuition
On a 3 three weekly cycle with the tutor visiting and teaching from each school in turn (schools cluster, Lewis)

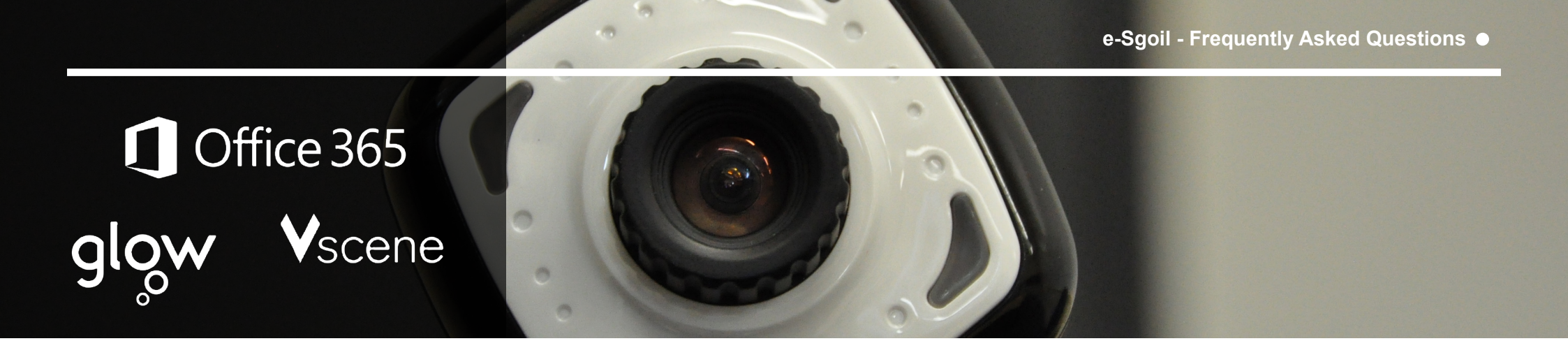
Who teaches through e-Sgoil and what are the terms of employment?

There is a small, core group of full-time permanent staff including a HT, PT and Administrator. Contracts for other staff range from one year FTE to as little as 5 hours per week for single class delivery or short term supply cover.

Commitment depends on staff availability and demand for the service. This degree of flexibility enables teachers who may be semi-retired, who are unable to secure full time contracts in local schools or who may have caring responsibilities to work hours which suit them etc.

Anyone wishing to apply for work through e-Sgoil can do so by responding to the advert on Myjob Scotland. Teachers can be based in our local hubs, in island or mainland schools or in their homes as long as they have good internet connectivity. Conditions of service are the same as for staff engaged in schools on a supply basis with all holiday, pension rights etc calculated on a pro-rata basis.

> “Teachers can be based in our local hubs, in island or mainland schools or in their homes”



What ICT infrastructure, web tools and resources do e-Sgoil teachers and pupils use?

The core tools are Vscene, Glow and Office 365. Staff can teach using a laptop or PC but would benefit from having a headset, Jabra mic and second screen. Individual pupils can use the same equipment but access to a large screen is advisable for groups. Our IT support team will be happy to advise on the availability and use of a range of other tools as they become available and reliable.

e-Sgoil makes use of the latest in Web and Cloud Technologies which have been developed over the past decade via the Scottish Schools Digital Network (SSDN) which was brought about by the Scottish Government, Education Scotland (formerly Learning and Teaching Scotland) and partner stakeholders including Local Education Authorities and representative groups such as the Scottish ICT Development Group (SICTDG). The SSDN vision provisioned for the following:

Original Core SSDN Strands 2018 version of the SSDN.

- Broadband links into every LA Authority connected to the fast, global internet backbone. Superfast broadband links to the majority of schools via the Scottish Wide Area Network (SWAN).

- One national safe and secure Intranet for Scottish Schools – called GLOW. Microsoft Office 365 which provides a wide range of modern, web collaboration tools for all classrooms, staff and pupils which are available (24/7/365) including: * Office Word (word processing); Excel (spreadsheet); PowerPoint (presentations), etc. * Calendar Tools * Personal work email accounts with 1Gb of email web storage per user. * 1Tb of OneDrive cloud file storage per user. * OneNote - free-form information gathering and multi-user collaboration for gathering/ presenting users' notes, drawings, screen clippings and audio commentaries. * Yammer - social networking service within Glow. * Teams - combines workplace chat, meetings, notes, documents, assignments and the attachments which is integrated with the other Office 365 suite of tools. * Plus other applications to support anytime, anywhere teaching and learning.

- Video conferencing bridge as part of the Joint Academic Network (JANet) infrastructure. * High Definition (HD) Vscene web conferencing is now managed and supported by Ajenta, Edinburgh. * Vscene is a free service for all Scottish, English and Welsh schools. * Vscene lessons can also be digitally recorded and stored.

How does Vscene web conferencing work?

Vscene offers staff and pupils a ‘television quality’ high definition (HD) video and audio link via their desktop computer, laptop or other portable device.

For teaching and learning, a 2nd monitor connected to the teacher’s computer/laptop to making screen sharing possible and allowing continuous view of the pupil(s), group or class.

In addition, a HD webcam (£80), audio headset with mic (£55) and/or desktop speakerphone/mic (£70) will provide a high quality experience for users.

A large screen is advisable for teaching mid to large sized groups remotely.

Vscene lessons can also be digitally recorded and stored online.

Our IT support team will be happy to advise on the availability and use of tried and tested, industry standard tools and solutions.

Why is there an insistence on the above as core delivery tools?

Having everyone using the same infrastructure has been key to our success to date. Glow, Office 365 and Vscene is freely available to all pupils and teachers in Scotland provided local authority firewalls are adjusted to ensure compatibility.

It is only by using the same tried and tested technology that we can ensure the quality of our service and be confident that our IT team has the capacity and ability to support their colleagues across local authorities.

What training and support is available for teachers?

Bespoke 'e-Quip' training can be provided for groups or individuals at the point of need. This gives a good grounding in both the pedagogical and technical aspects of on-line teaching. Depending on teachers' levels of expertise, this can range from a half day induction to several days of structured support. The training can be delivered remotely or in one of our hubs. Alternatively, one of our trainers can travel to a school if required to do so.

Staff meet regularly through Vscene in order to share experiences and reflect on practice with regard to pedagogy and the use of IT. Simple guides to teaching approaches and the use of various Glow tools are then updated and shared through Glow.

What does the service cost?

e-Sgoil provides its services at cost, plus 10% to cover central administration, management and IT support. The cost of a 50 minute teaching period is £46 in total. This includes additional time for preparation and correction. By deploying staff to teach small cohorts of pupils across a number of schools, costs to individual establishments can be on a pro-rata basis and thereby reduced significantly.

Where possible, quid-pro-quo arrangements between local authorities can be facilitated so that efficiency in terms of staff deployment is maximised.

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VSCENE TEACHING / LEARNING TIPS

How can teaching be quality assured?

Most of the quality assurance is carried out in exactly the same way as in any other school: tracking and monitoring, liaision with school based staff re pupil performance and engagement, work sampling and moderation, analysis of exam data etc.

Classroom observations, through Vscene, are carried out regularly by the Principal Teacher. She is able to link in remotely and observe without disrupting the lesson or impacting on classroom dynamics.

> "Classroom observations, ...are carried out regularly by the Principal Teacher"

> "...quality assurance is carried out in exactly the same way as in any other school"

What are the main challenges faced by e-Sgoil?

- Pupils and teachers in some local authorities not being enabled to use Glow, Office 365 and Vscene which are available to all, at no cost
- The disparity in firewall restriction across authorities
- Lack of dedicated technical support in receiving schools

Our IT team works with colleagues at local authority and school level to facilitate delivery but dealing with individual schools is labour intensive, time consuming and unsustainable in the long term. Local authorities wishing to make use of e-Sgoil services will need to adopt a corporate approach to facilitation and IT support if we are to ensure best value.

What other services are provided through e-Sgoil?

Weekly Gaelic classes, at Beginner, Intermediate and Fluent level, are provided for Modern Apprentices and for groups of adult learners in other local authority areas.

Maths Nat 5 and Higher tuition will be available to adults who require the qualification in order to progress on their chosen career path.

Which partner agencies does e-Sgoil work with?

e-Sgoil is working closely with:

- Skills Development Scotland to facilitate delivery of Gaelic medium services to Schools throughout Scotland
- Lews Castle College / UHI to promote and deliver Foundation Apprenticeships
- Historical Societies to maximise the use of archives and artefacts as learning and teaching resources

What are the main projects in the 2018 / 19 e-Sgoil Development Plan?

Through creative use of technology:

- Promote Gaelic as an economic, educational, social and cultural asset
- Develop music tuition
- Facilitate the teaching of a range of modern languages (1+2) in Primary and Secondary schools
- Enhance the teaching of Science in the Primary curriculum
- Pilot alternative approaches to Support for Learning provision

How do we improve the service?

e-Sgoil is an evolving service. We actively seek constructive criticism from all pupils, teachers, adults and partner agencies with whom we engage.

Please contact us should you require further explanation of any of the points listed above, if you have further suggestions or if you think of other questions which should be added to the list.

This document will be available on the e-Sgoil website and updated regularly in light of comments and queries received.

e-Sgoil

Engagement

SECONDARY SCHOOL	LEVEL/SUBJECT
Tiree High School	N5/H Biology
Lochaber High School	S1-S4 Gaelic
Turriff Academy	N5 Physics
Nairn Academy	• BGE Gàidhlig • BGE Eachdraidh
Banff Academy	H Modern Studies
Bishopbriggs Academy	Nat 5/H Gàidhlig
Hazlehead Academy	S1-S5 Gàidhlig
Portree High School	• Nat 4/5 Business Studies
Sgoil Lionacleit	• Nat 5 Computing Science • H Psychology
Sir E. Scott School	• H RMPS • H Computing Science • H Modern Studies • AH Maths. • H Psychology • N5 / H Chemistry • Brass tuition
Dingwall Academy	AH / Nat 5 Gàidhlig
Perth Academy	Eachdraidh BGE
Oban High School	Gaelic
Banchory Academy	Gaelic
Inverness Royal Academy	Eachdraidh BGE
Dunoon Grammar School	Gaelic
Castlebay Community School	AH Maths
Western Isles Secondary Schools	Easter Study Support - Physics, Maths, Modern Studies & RMPS

e-Sgoil Engagement

> "e-Sgoil responds creatively to demand, delivering a wide range of subjects as and when required"

PRIMARY SCHOOL	SUBJECT
Bunessan Primary School	P1 GME
Uig Primary School	Fiddle Tuition / L1 + 2 French
Bernera Primary School	Fiddle Tuition / L1 + 2 French
Pàirc Primary School	Fiddle Tuition / Chanter Tuition
Sgoil nan Loch	Fiddle Tuition
Leverhulme Memorial Primary School	Chanter Tuition / L1 + 2 French
Applegrove Primary School (Forres)	General Primary
Sgoil Shiaboist	Melodeon Tuition
Sgoil an Taobh Siar	Melodeon Tuition

> "e-Sgoil is about promoting equity in terms of subject choice across schools"

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	DELIVERY
RCS Glasgow	Voice, Accordion
Skills Development Scotland	Curricular inserts, Re: DYW & Gaelic
Comunn Eachdraidh (Historical Societies)	Resource development - local history
Cothrom Uist	Foundation Apprenticeship
Seallam Centre	Apprenticeships
Lews Castle College / UHI	Gaelic lessons - adult learners/ MAs
Comhairle nan Leabhraichean	Book club
Scottish Book Trust	Book Bug
Island Book Trust	Angus Macleod Memorial Lecture
Police Scotland / Child Protection Officer	Internet Safety

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Key Factors for Enabling

Investment in ICT in Education

During the 6 year period (2011/12 - 2017/18) Capital programme Comhairle nan Eileanan Siar invested in upgrading their entire schools estate to the ICT specification of the 6 new schools built by the Western Isles Schools Programme (WISP) during 2011-13.

This resulted in Eileanan Siar schools benefiting from an investment of £2.6M covering ICT infrastructure, systems and software upgrading as follows:

£ 397k – Schools ICT Capital + WISP (2011/12 – 2012/13)
£ 525k – 150 x Interactive Smartboards (6 x WISP schools 2011/12 – 2012/13)
£1,350k – Schools ICT Capital + WISP (2013/14 – 2017/18) - see Appendices 1.1 and 1.2
£ 400k – e-Sgoil ICT equipment, resilience and support (2016/17)
£2,672k – Total over 7 year period (averaging £382k annually)

Schools ICT Synergy with National Vision and Strategy

Significantly, the above investment was able to achieve good synergy with the Government's ICT vision and strategy for all of Scotland's schools which CNES and other Local Authority's contributed to in the years leading up to, rollout of and ongoing development of the Scottish Schools Digital Network (SSDN) and its secure, national intranet for schools called Glow.

ENHANCING LEARNING AND TEACHING THROUGH THE USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Continuing to Improve Access for Eileanan Siar (ES) schools and partners (update May '18).

The success of implementing ICT in education is dependent on the organisational, educational and technical expertise of the team who deliver and support it in schools - Also, on how it is implemented and having adequate funding in place to sustain investment in it.

> "Positive commitment and good support links with key local stakeholders"

Critical factors for the successful start-up of e-Sgoil were:

- Vision based on core needs a national and local government investment in modern Schools ICT infrastructure and systems.
- Workforce Support Structure including Education Director, Senior Educators, ICT, MIS and Multimedia specialists – see appendix 2.
- Availability and location of key building location all within 500m footprint and all directly connected via fast fibre links (Education HQ, Schools ICT and MIS support hub and e-Sgoil).
- Positive commitment and good support links with key national stakeholders including Government, DFM, Education Scotland, National Glow Team, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, SDS, Ajenta (Vscene) etc.
- Positive commitment and good support links with key local stakeholders including Comhairle members, Chief Executive, Corporate Finance, IT and Technical Services, Schools, Comunn Eachdraidh (local Historical Societies), Community Groups, etc.
- Positive commitment to supporting the Gaelic language, Education, culture, music, arts, history and global community.
- In-house Schools ICT Support Team wholly focused on the needs of schools while maintaining good working links with Corporate IT colleagues.
- In-house Management Information Systems (MIS) Team wholly focused on the encompassing needs of schools, the Education department, partner agencies and Children's Services.
- Education Support Officer wholly focussed on the curriculum needs of schools.
- The establishment of apprenticeship posts to strengthen

Critical factors for the successful start-up of e-Sgoil were: (Cont)

Schools ICT and MIS Teams' response to existing commitments and build capacity for emerging e-Sgoil needs.

- ICT Coordinator for Schools post wholly focused on the needs of schools.
- Scottish Schools Digital Network.
- SWAN – superfast broadband infrastructure and links for all schools.
- Vscene HD web conferencing – free to use for all schools.
- National Intranet for Scottish Schools – called Glow.
- Microsoft Office 365 – free to use for all schools

providing a wide range of industry standard, modern, web collaboration tools for all classrooms, staff and pupils – and available (24/7/365) including:

- **Office Word (word processing); Excel (spreadsheet); PowerPoint (presentations), etc.**
- **Calendar Tools**
- **Personal work email accounts with 1 Gigabyte of email web storage per user.**
- **1 Terabyte of OneDrive cloud file storage per user.**
- **OneNote - free-form information gathering and multi-user collaboration for gathering/ presenting users' notes, drawings, screen clippings and audio commentaries.**
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- **Teams - combines workplace chat, meetings, notes, documents, assignments and other attachments which is integrated with the other Office 365 suite of tools.**
- **Plus other applications to support anytime, anywhere teaching and learning**

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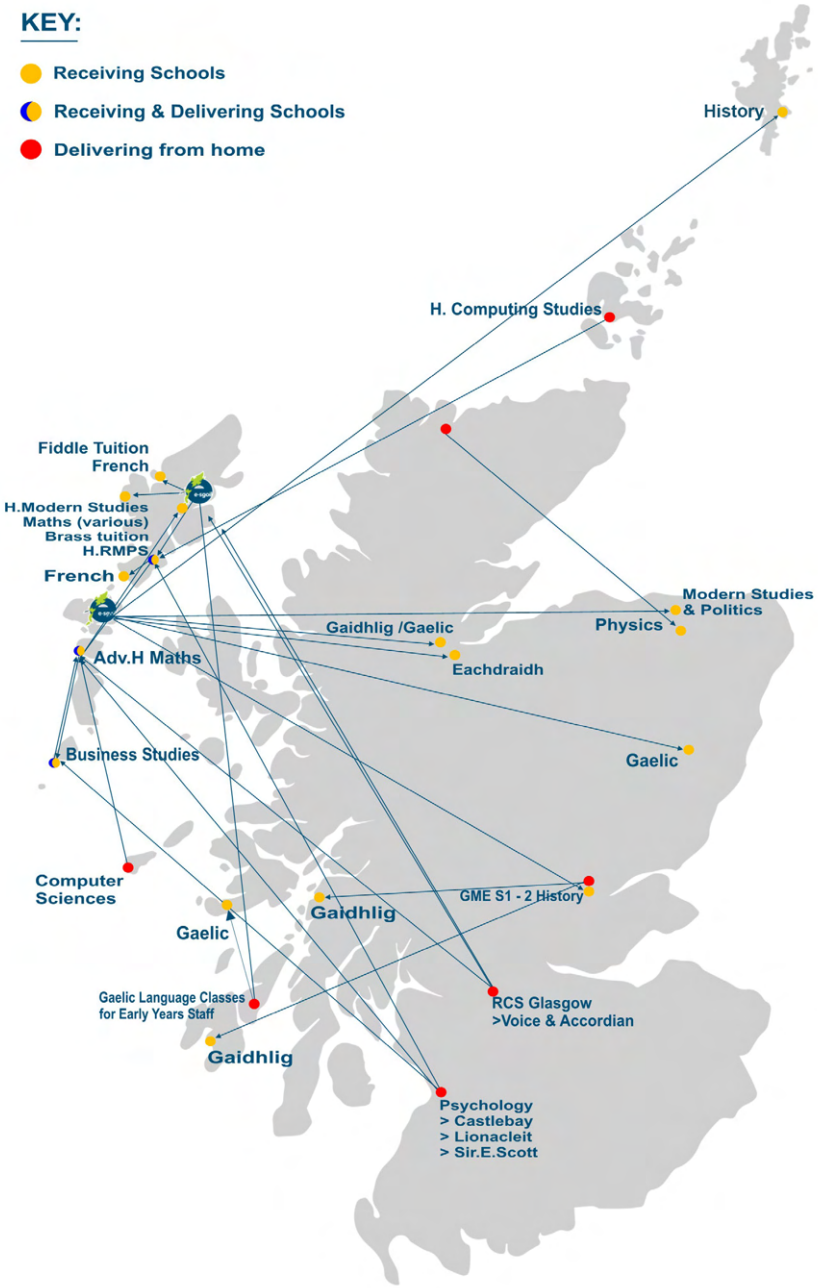
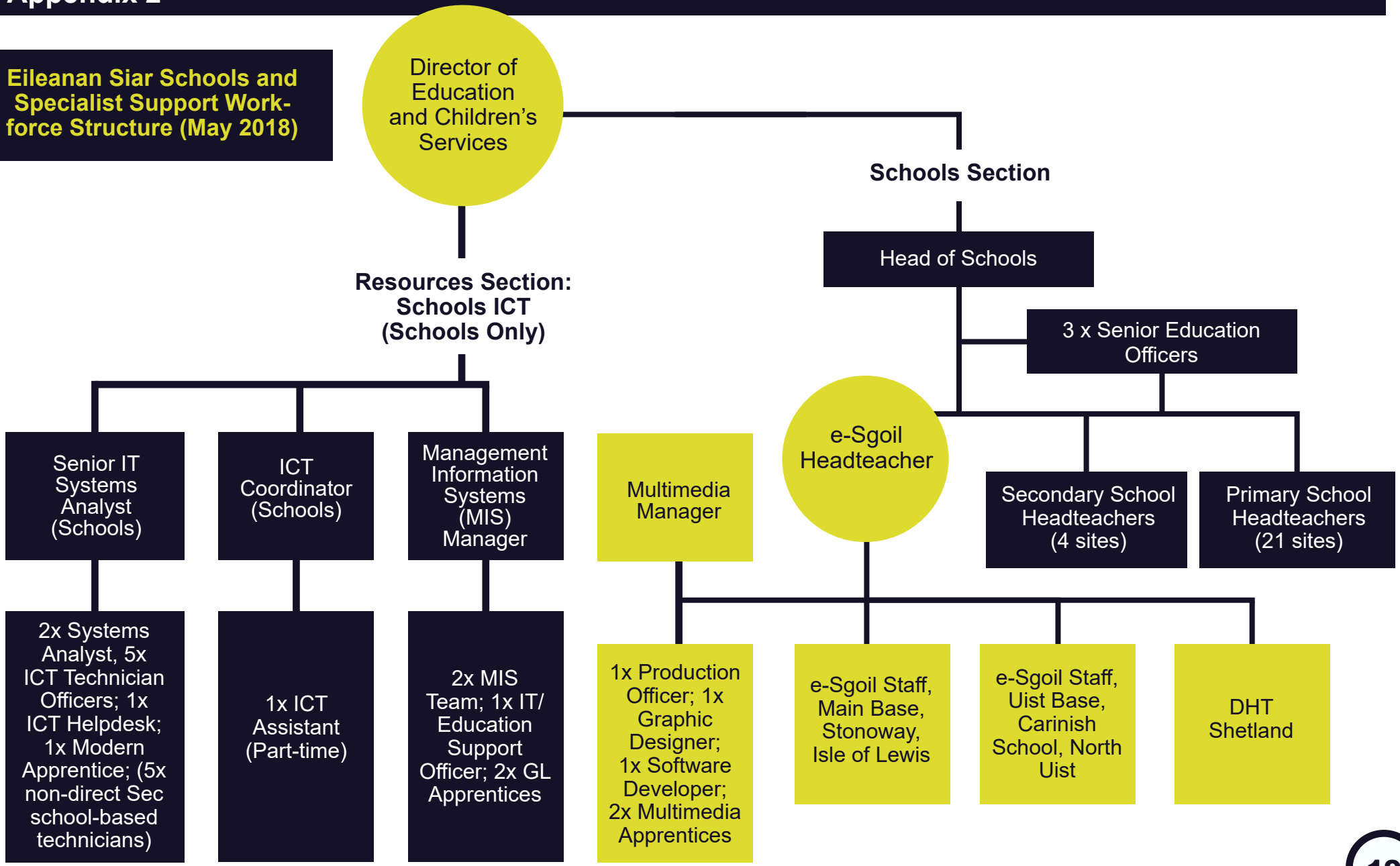
Appendices

e-Sgoil Links 2016/17 - 18



Appendix 2

Eileanan Siar Schools and Specialist Support Work-force Structure (May 2018)