



Fàs Mòr



Fàs Mòr

Growing with Gaelic

A handbook for Parents and
Carers



Introduction

Fàs Mòr was established in 2003 by a group of dedicated parents in Sleat on the Isle of Skye in response to the demand for local childcare provision, and who recognised the benefits of offering this provision through the medium of Scottish Gaelic.

Today Fàs Mòr is located within a purpose-built facility on the college campus of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. We offer a warm welcome to all children, parents and carers and to any families visiting the area. We care for children from birth to twelve years old and offer after school clubs during term-time as well as holiday club during school holidays.

Fàs Mòr is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors with a mixed representation of parents, members of the community and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. We receive funding from Bòrd Na Gàidhlig to provide our service through the medium of Gaelic. We are also a member of the Highland-wide Care and Learning Alliance.

Fàs Mòr is registered with the SCSWIS, the registration and inspection body for children and young people's services in Scotland, registration number SC2003052372.

We are a non-profit making organisation, registered as a charity in Scotland, SC036011.

Mission Statement

Fàs Mòr aims to provide a safe, permanent environment to benefit children and young people who both reside in and visit the Skye and Lochalsh area. Our mission is to promote the welfare, further the health and advance the education of children aged twelve years and under, with qualified, registered care, and in a relaxed and stimulating environment, through the medium of Gaelic.

Contact Details:

Address: Fàs Mòr

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

Sleat

Isle of Skye

IV44 8RQ

Email: fasmor.smo@uhi.ac.uk

Phone: 01471 888366



Covid 19

Please note several changes to our service due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Drop off and pick up time

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, parents are no longer permitted within the setting. We have moved our doorbell upstairs where parents should wait for a member of staff to come and bring their children inside. Children's temperatures will be tested on arrival. At pick up time parents should ring the bell and wait upstairs for staff to bring their children up. Please wait outside if there are others waiting.

Admissions

Unfortunately this also means new parents are unable to visit the setting or participate in time together during the settling in period. Our staff will work closely with parents to make this process and comfortable as possible.

Bookings

The uncertainty of the pandemic means that booking as early as possible is encouraged. However, we are offering leeway for cancellations related to Coronavirus. Please also be understanding of limited spaces as staff have to set aside significant time for extra cleaning.

Personal belongings

We are asking that children only bring with them essential items including a jacket, boots, indoor shoes, a change of clothes, a packed lunch and a water bottle. Please only bring essential comforters. Please bring a pack of nappies and wipes to leave at Fàs Mòr.

Diaries

We are now using Online Journals to replace paper diaries. You will be emailed with a login once registered.

Other

In order to minimise contact; pictures and drawings, etc will be left at Fàs Mòr.

We have removed as many soft furnishings and "hard to clean" toys as possible. We have also suspended toothbrushing, baking, group singing and cut down on sensory play such as playdoh until deemed safe. Much of our service is now delivered outside!



Admissions

Fàs Mòr holds an open policy on admissions and we promote equal opportunities. We aim to be genuinely accessible and offer the same welcome and service to all, irrespective of race, religion, gender, ability, sexual orientation or social background.

We provide childcare services through the medium of Gaelic and we work to promote the benefits of bilingualism and multilingualism and to widen this opportunity to all.

We are currently registered to care for a maximum of 45 children at once from birth to twelve years. When allocating places priority will be given as follows:

1. To children of working parents
2. To children of parents studying at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
3. To children who are enrolled, or who will be enrolling in Gaelic medium education
4. To children living in the local community of Sleat

It should be noted that we adhere to national guidelines on staff to child ratios which are as follows:

Children aged 0-2	1 adult: 3 children
Children aged 2-3	1 adult: 5 children
Children aged 3-8	1 adult: 8 children
Children aged 8-12	1 adult: 10 children

*Where children aged 3 and over and attend fewer than four hours in one day the adult: child ratio can be 1 adult to 10 children.

At least two adults will always be on the premises when children are being cared for.

Opening Hours

We are open from 08:45 – 17:00 every Monday to Friday. Club na Sgoile runs from 15:15 – 17.00 Monday to Friday during term time and we welcome school-aged children during school holidays and in-service days. We are open all year but usually close for two weeks over Christmas and two weeks during the summer holidays.

Enquiries

On enquiry, your child's name will be added to our Waiting List and an introductory visit to Fàs Mòr will be arranged. This enables parents and carers and their children to meet with staff and explore the surroundings of the nursery and answer any questions you may have. This does not in any way commit you to registration and uptake of a place.

Registration

On registering your child into Fàs Mòr you will be asked to complete registration forms. Your child will be allocated a key member of staff who will work with you to ensure that your child settles in and that you are happy with their transition. A settling in plan will be arranged with you and the manager or your child's key worker.



Booking

Due to the limited number of places available, it is advisable to book places well in advance. We take block bookings of three months and these are charged at the 'Early Booking Rate' of £4.20 per hour. Early Booking forms are set out via e-mail (can be printed on request) and must be returned by the specified date to qualify for discount. The 3-month blocks are as follows:

3 Month Block	Booking form sent out by	Completed booking form returned by
Jan-Mar	1st Dec	15 th Dec
Apr-Jun	1 st Mar	15 th Mar
Jul-Sep	1 st Jun	15 th Jun
Oct-Dec	1 st Sep	15 th Sep

Last minute bookings will be accepted if space is available but will be charged at the 'Flexible Rate' of £5.20 per hour.

Half-hourly rates do not apply and bookings are only accepted on the hour i.e. 9.00-10.00am. Fees are payable at the full rate for the hours the child is booked in, even if they are dropped-off late or collected early.

We reserve the right to change the fees but will endeavour to consult with parents and give them at least one month's notice period.

All parents/guardians are responsible for the delivery and collection of children. Please note that due to staff ratios, punctuality is essential. Therefore, if a child is collected more than 10 minutes after the end of session, you will be charged for that hour (at the flexible rate).

After School Club costs £6.50 per session whether it's booked or not. However, parents must call or e-mail to let us know when a child is coming or not.

Absences/Cancellations

If a child is booked into Fàs Mòr it is important that we are notified if they are going to be absent. Absences will be charged at the child's usual rate. If it is a long-term cancellation (lasting longer than two weeks) this will be charged at a half-price rate. Cancellations on the 'Flexible rate' are not charged.

Disruptions

We make every effort to maintain a full day care service, but on some occasions, circumstances arise which may lead to disruptions. The facility may be affected by severe weather conditions or power failures. In such circumstances we will do all we can to let you know and you will not be charged if Fàs Mòr closes.

Payments

An invoice will be sent to each family after each month and payment should be made by cash, cheque or BACS within 7 days.



Settling In

Children need to feel safe, stimulated and happy to develop and grow socially, emotionally and physically. We aim to make Fàs Mòr a warm and welcoming place where children settle in easily and where they feel secure and comfortable with the staff and their new environment.

We recognise that every child is different and that some children may need more time (or less). We offer a flexible settling in period to suit each child and their individual needs. On enquiry parents will be invited to visit Fàs Mòr and meet the Manager and the staff team before discussing how we can best help your child settle in comfortably at Fàs Mòr.

Key Worker

Upon registration your child will be assigned a **key worker**. Your child's key worker will help your child to become familiar with their new setting and to feel confident and safe within it. They will also be on hand to discuss any issues or queries you may have. Every member of staff will also welcome and spend time with each new child and we pride ourselves on our collective caring and understanding approach.

Time Together

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 parents are not currently permitted within the setting. We look forward to welcoming parents inside to spend with their child in Fàs Mòr.

First Day

We suggest an initial visit of 30 minutes to allow the child to meet everyone and explore the setting. This would usually be followed by a two or three hour session and built up to suit the needs of the family. Initial visits and two settling in hours are free of charge.



Our Staff

Our friendly and qualified staff are **PVG Checked, SSSC registered** and work together to ensure that every child feels welcomed and enjoys their time with us. We adhere to, and believe in the principles of the Scottish **Health and Social Care Standards** which give all children the right to:

- Dignity and Respect
- Compassion
- Be Included
- Responsive Care
- Support and wellbeing

All our staff are fluent Gaelic speakers or advanced learners and we always encourage everyone to speak Gaelic. We are very proud of our success and experience in developing and encouraging children's fluency in Gaelic. We aim to promote the benefits of bilingualism and multilingualism and to widen this opportunity to all and we work closely with our local primary school, Bun-sgoil Shlèite, to support parents in the care and education of their children.

Our staff are committed to continuous personal development and are encouraged to work towards relevant qualifications. We also regularly attend relevant training including Food Hygiene, Paediatric First Aid and Child protection.

For more information on our staff, recruitment and codes of conduct, please visit our website: <https://www.fasmor.co.uk/>



A Safe, Healthy Environment

There are several policies and procedures in place to ensure that your child is safe, well looked after and can flourish in a healthy environment. A full copy of these can be found on our website.

Our responsibility starts when the child is signed in and ends when the child is signed out.

For Afterschool children, the child's parent/ carer is responsible for ensuring Fàs Mòr know if their child is coming to Fàs Mòr and whether they will be accompanied by an adult or not.

Illness

In the interest of general health please be aware that we cannot accept your child into Fàs Mòr if they are unwell.

All infectious diseases should be notified so that staff and other parents can be informed.

Disease/Illness	Exclusion Period
Temperature	24 hours
Vomiting	48 hours from last episode
Diarrhoea	48 hours from last episode
Conjunctivitis	No exclusion
Chicken Pox	5 days from onset of rash
Gastro-enteritis	Until authorised by NHS
Infective Hepatitis	7 days from onset of jaundice
Measles	5 days from onset of rash
Meningococcal infection	Until recovered
Mumps	Minimum 10 days, until swelling subsided
Whooping cough	21 days from onset of paroxysmal cough or 5 days from antibiotic
Poliomyelitis	Until authorised by NHS
Rubella (German measles)	5 days from onset of rash
Scarlet fever	2 days from start of treatment
Tuberculosis	Until authorised by NHS
Typhoid fever	Until authorised by NHS
Impetigo	Until skin healed
Plantar warts	No exclusion – cover until cured
Ringworm of scalp	No exclusion after treatment
Ringworm of body	No exclusion after treatment
Scabies	24 hours after treatment
Head lice	Please check weekly, ask if unsure about treatment
Threadworm	No exclusion
Coronavirus (COVID 19)	Until Authorised by NHS



Should a child become unwell while at Fàs Mòr, we will make every effort to contact you. We reserve the right to remove a child to hospital in an emergency.

Medication

If your child needs medicine while in Fàs Mòr, you will be asked to sign a form detailing dosage and times. We are also happy to hold medication for long-term conditions and there will always be a member of staff present trained to use this medication.

First Aid

If a child becomes hurt at Fàs Mòr; a full assessment will be made and first aid (if required) will be sought immediately. There will always be a member of staff on hand trained to administer first aid. You will be asked to sign an accident/ incident report on arrival.



Our day

We are open from **9:00 - 17:00 from Monday to Thursday and 9:00 – 16:00 on Fridays** (to allow extra time for cleaning)

Snack

We provide healthy snacks for the children, in line with **Setting the Table** - guidance from the NHS and Scottish Government at both 10:00am and 15:00pm. After School Club are offered snacks on arrival. It is vital that we are informed of any allergies or eating requirements on registration.

Lunchtime

Lunch is at 12:00pm, if your child is with us over lunchtime you must bring a healthy packed lunch. This can be either hot or cold.

Toothbrushing

In line with the Council's Health Promoting Initiative, the children participate in our toothbrushing routine each day following morning snack, we will provide brushes and toothpaste.

Nappies

Children's nappies are changed at least every 3 hours while at Fàs Mòr or immediately if soiled. Please either bring a changing bag with plenty nappies, wipes, cream and spare clothes for the day or leave a pack of nappies, wipes and cream to keep at Fàs Mòr. Staff will inform you when these are running low.

We are happy to assist children with toilet training but ask that parents bring plenty spare clothes during this time.

Personal Belongings

We strongly encourage parents to **label all personal belongings**. We do not encourage you to bring any small toys. We make our best effort to keep all belongings safe but do not take responsibility for lost or broken belongings.

Please make sure that your child brings appropriate clothing for the weather e.g. waterproofs, wellies, sunhats, etc as well as soft indoor shoes.



Play

We use **in the moment planning** to accommodate the children's interests and development stages and give the children a range of stimulating and enhancing activities. Our playrooms and outdoor spaces are designed as **enabling environments** to encourage free flow play throughout the session, allowing children to be in control of their own play and learning. This is done safely and securely and all areas are supervised by the staff.

Sand, water, paint, craft, drawing/mark-making, books, dressing-up / role-play, construction toys and loose parts, jigsaws / puzzles, musical toys and energetic play both indoors and out are all regularly available. We sing songs and read stories every day as well.

We also encourage the children to take part in baking, painting, printing, junk modelling, playdough and various forms of craft activities involving colour, texture, shape, cutting, gluing etc.

When time, numbers and weather allow, we take the children on outings to local amenities including the café, beach, shop, local farm and around the college campus. We also often have visitors to may come and speak to the children or provide an activity.

We may ask for written consent of other special events or trips, but parents will always be given plenty notice.

All our activities and environments are **risk assessed** and supervised by the staff.

Diaries

Each child under 5 years old and attending regularly will be given an online journal which the child's key worker will update with what the child ate, when their nappy was changed, when they slept and what we got up to that day. This diary will also contain pictures, observations and updates from the key worker. Parents are also encouraged to use this diary to communicate with staff.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

We encourage all children to respect and be kind to each other, themselves, others as well as their environment. If there is an issue with a child's behaviour, the parents/carers, key worker and manager will talk through a plan to improve this.



Growing with Gaelic

Gaelic is the sole language spoken in Fàs Mòr by all staff, with the provision that English may be used to settle children in and to give instructions in matters affecting health and safety.

Children are always encouraged to express themselves fully to staff and to each other in any way they wish. They will acquire an understanding of Gaelic largely through being immersed in it. In other words, through hearing it spoken while they are doing their day-to-day activities.

[Comann nam Pàrant](#) provides further information on Gaelic and bringing children up bilingually and a variety of resources and useful links can be found on the [Gaelic4Parents](#) website.

Getting involved

We welcome parent and carer interest and involvement in all aspects of our work at Fàs Mòr. This may take form of joining our Board of Directors, supporting fundraising, feedback and any ideas you may have on improving the service.

You are always welcome to speak to the manager and staff about any questions, concerns or ideas.

Complaints

If you have a concern or complaint regarding Fàs Mòr please let the manager know immediately. You are always welcome to discuss issues informally, request a meeting with the manager, or you can speak to a member of the Board of Directors.

At any stage you can contact the Care Inspectorate directly. Tel: 0845 600 9527

A full copy of all our policies and procedures are available from our website or on request from the manager. Any questions, please get in touch.