



# 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 at Bun-Sgoil Shlèite in an adapted demountable unit whilst plans are ongoing for a permanent residence at 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.

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

Bun Sgoil Shlèite

Sleat

Isle of Skye

IV44 8RP

Email: [fasmor.smo@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:fasmor.smo@uhi.ac.uk)

Phone: 07500 577508



## **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.

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 who want it.

We are currently registered to care for a maximum of 26 children at once from birth to twelve years including Daycare for babies and toddlers, funded care for [Eligible 2s](#), After School Care for 3-12 year olds and childcare for all during school holidays.

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 during the school term and school holidays. We are open all year where possible 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 a care plan will be arranged with you and the manager or your child's key worker. Throughout the child's time with us, it is essential that you inform the manager or child's key worker of any changes in the child's life, no matter how big or small so that we can do our best to support them and their family.



## Booking

We take bookings for day-care and holiday childcare in blocks 3 months at a time. Booking forms are sent out via e-mail and must be returned by the specified date to qualify for the Early Booking Rate. The blocks are as follows:

- January / February/ March
- April / May/ June
- July / August/ September
- October/ November/ December

Bookings are made for sessions. The sessions are as follows:

	Moring session: 9am – 12pm	School day: 9am – 3pm*	Full day: Mon- Thursdays 9am – 5pm
Early booking rate	£14.55	£29.10	£38.80
Flexible booking rate	£17.55	£35.10	£46.80

\*Parents who have other children attending Sgoil Araich or Bun Sgoil Shlèite can pick up anytime between 3pm and 3:20pm to fit in with school pick-up.

Fàs Mòr also provides 'Flexible hours' which are classed as anything booked after the stated date for prebooked block Early Rate bookings. These can be booked at any time if there is space. Please remember that these bookings can be made up until the day they are required or as soon as you are aware you need extra slots.

We reserve the right to change the fees in line with inflation 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. As Fàs Mòr must operate within government statutory ratios, on time collection is essential. If you are unable to collect on time you must contact the nurse as soon as possible.

### Absences/Cancellations

If a child is booked in, we must be notified if they are going to be absent. All cancellations on either rate are chargeable and will be charged. If it is a long-term cancellation (lasting longer than two weeks) this will be charged at a half-price rate.

### 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 other Health and Safety reasons. 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 via email after each month and payment should be made by cash, cheque, or BACS within 7 days.

## **After School Club**

During the school term, Fàs Mòr offers after-school childcare for children attending Bun-Sgoil Shlèite including children aged 3-5 years attending Sgoil-Àraich.

Afterschool club is charged at £7 per session (Monday – Thursday 3.30pm-5pm) and £10 per session (Friday 12.30-3pm).

Bookings for afterschool club can be made using the booking form, or anytime, however advanced notice is essential to ensure there is space available.

Parents should also notify Bun-Sgoil Shlèite well in advance that their child is attending Fàs Mòr afterschool.

A member of Fàs Mòr staff will collect children from Sgoil Àraich at 3:20pm and children from school will make their way across the playground to be signed in at Fàs Mòr.

All cancelations will be charged.



## Settling In

Children need to feel safe, stimulated and happy to develop and grow. 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 than others. 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

After 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.

### First Day

We suggest an initial visit with a parent or carer 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 training sessions 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.

Children will be signed in and out on arrival by staff during handover.

For Afterschool children, the child's parent/ carer is responsible for ensuring Fàs Mòr *and* the primary school know if their child is coming to Fàs Mòr.

### 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 at pick-up



## **Our day**

### Drop Off/ Pick up

Parents are encouraged to stick to expected pick-up/ drop off times although we understand that with young children this isn't always possible. Please phone, text or email to let us know if you're running late.

Road-side parking is available for parents at Bun Sgoil Shlèite. Please be conscious that the road is extremely busy between 8:45-9 am and 3:20-3:35pm with school buses and school parents. The Sleat and Strath Church of Scotland have been very generous to offer us temporary use of the Manse for parking in case the school parking is full. Vehicles are parked at the driver's own risk and road safety should be taken seriously by all.

Parents/ carers can take children along the pavement, down the path, through the gate and ring the front doorbell.

### **Please shut all gates behind you**

### Snack

We provide healthy snacks for the children, in line with **Setting the Table** - guidance from the NHS and Scottish Government at 10:00am and 15:30pm. After School Club are encouraged to help themselves to a variety of snacks and regulate their intake. 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. We can heat food if needed. We recommend a main meal (sandwich/ pasta/ soup/ leftover dinner) as well as fruit/ veg and any other snack your child would normally eat at home. We will not give children chocolate or sweets and **no nuts** should be taken into the setting including peanut butter.

### Toothbrushing

In line with the Council's health promoting initiative, the children under 3 participate in our toothbrushing routine each day following morning snack, we provide brushes and toothpaste.

### Intimate care

Children's nappies are changed at every 3-4 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.



## Nap Time

Every child has their own routine, and we try to be as flexible as possible to accommodate this, especially for our youngest children and babies. We promote 'Safer Sleep' for our babies and toddlers, in a clear, flat space on their backs. Additional arrangements can be made for children who need them.

## Personal Belongings

We strongly encourage parents to **label all personal belongings** and not to bring any toys except essential comforters. We always 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 and a change of clothes. We recommend bringing a waterproof rainsuit and wellies, even in dry weather as we encourage children to explore many environments and play opportunities outdoors.

Please don't send children to Fàs Mòr in clothes that you do not wish to get messy. Whilst exploring foods, materials, environments and experiences, the children's clothes will get dirty.

## Play

We follow Scottish Government guidance 'Realising the Ambition; Being Me' as well as elements from 'Curriculum for Excellence,' and use, 'In the Moment Planning,' to accommodate the children's interests and development stages and give the children a range of stimulating and enhancing opportunities. Our playrooms and outdoor spaces are designed as enabling environments to encourage free play throughout the session, allowing children to be in control of their own play and learning. This is done safely and securely while all areas are supervised by the staff.

Sand, water, paint, craft, drawing/mark-making, books, dressing-up / role-play, construction toys and loose parts, puzzles, musical toys and energetic play both indoors and out are all regularly available. We also sing songs, read stories, play games and 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 and local farm. We also sometimes have visitors who may come and speak to the children or provide an activity.

We will ask for written consent for 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 3 years old and attending regularly will be given an online journal which will be updated daily with what the child ate, personal care records, when they slept and what we got up to that day. This diary will also contain pictures, observations and updates from the child's key worker. Parents are also encouraged to use this diary to communicate with staff and look at together with their children at home.

## Promoting Positive Behaviour

We encourage all children to respect and be kind to each other, themselves, others as well as their environment. We believe that behaviour is communication and if there is an ongoing challenge with a child's behaviour, the parents/carers, key worker, and manager will talk through a plan to address 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; 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, offering 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.**