

Consultation Questions
Section 1

1. Do you agree with the reasons given for promoting and learning languages on pages 4 and 5, and that these are the main reasons for supporting current language initiatives in Scotland? If not, why not?

We do agree with these reasons in their entirety. A strategy which is truly inclusive and which seeks to break down barriers is one which will will make a difference to all in Scotland.

We have a particular interest in page 10, with reference to British Sign Language. We are

<p>2. Do you agree that the language initiatives described on pages 6 – 12 and elsewhere are the key areas for language promotion in Scotland? If not, why not?</p>	<p>pleased to see recognition of the difficulties faced by BSL users each and every day. We must also be prepared to learn from the experiences of the Welsh Assembly Government in improving access to BSL and improving communication. To succeed, we need a genuine partnership-based approach in which everyone must be on board, with no one organisation being responsible for the strategic direction of the plan. Effectively, we have to all be in or it will not succeed.</p>
<p>3. Do you agree that the key principles listed on pages 14 and 15 should shape language activity in Scotland? If not, why not?</p>	<p>These key principles appear to be strong and we support these, especially with regards to the fair and equal linguistic access to information and services. We also agree with celebrating diversity and learning, and so would suggest that BSL could be also more widely available and taught to students in P6-S4 as well. We would also suggest a rewording of the final principle, from "languages spoken" to "languages used" perhaps.</p>
<p>4. Are there any other comments you would like to offer on this strategy in relation to the promotion of languages in Scotland?</p>	<p>This strategy is a welcome one. The accompanying consultation offers us the opportunity to ensure that this will seek to improve our understanding of languages and the cultures surrounding them. We believe that we must do more to ensure BSL users feel part of society, and would welcome further steps to recognise BSL as a language in its own right, on a par with Scots and Gaelic at the very least.</p>
<p>5. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, how do you think you may be able to contribute to the success of the strategy?</p>	<p>We would be pleased to be involved in steering these ideas and helping to develop robust tactics to deliver this strategy.</p>