



Parents/Carers?

The SNSA are designed primarily for use by teachers. Data from SNSA will add to the picture that the teacher already has regarding how your child is progressing in school. It will provide feedback information about where your child did well and where further support is required. Teachers will use this information in the same way as they use other assessment information to help plan next steps and provide further support as appropriate. Providing the right support at the right time will help to ensure that child or young person is able to reach their potential.

Information from SNSA will also provide a source of evidence which may be shared in the course of normal engagements with parents/carers about each child's learning. For example, at Parents' Evenings or as part of normal reporting processes.

Where can I find out further information about SNSA?

The Scottish Government have created a dedicated website at <https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot>, Should you still have queries about SNSA, please get in touch with the Head Teacher of your child's school.



Contact us

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From mountain to sea

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



Information for Parents/Carers

Use of Scottish National
Standardised Assessments
(SNSA) in Aberdeenshire schools



During session 2017-18, the Scottish Government introduced a system of standardised assessments in all publicly funded schools – called the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (or SNSA). Each year all pupils at the P1, P4 and P7 stages in primary, and those in S3 in secondary are involved in taking SNSA assessments focusing on key skills in Literacy and Numeracy. This leaflet provides summary information about SNSA and how it will be implemented across schools in Aberdeenshire.

Assessment as part of learning and teaching

The curriculum in all schools in Aberdeenshire is planned and delivered based on national guidance (the Curriculum for Excellence), which sees assessment of children and young people's learning playing a central role in ensuring high quality experiences that allow them to develop, progress and fulfil their potentials. The assessment of children's progress throughout primary school and in secondary S1–S3 is based on teachers' professional judgement. In making these judgements, teachers draw on their professional knowledge and understanding of the child; on the key benchmarks for progress in learning in literacy and numeracy, and on a wide range of assessment information.

If you would like to read more about the “benchmarks for literacy & numeracy”, referred to above, you can do so via the following link:

<https://bit.ly/2IJTIJu>

Most of this assessment information is generated from the everyday learning experiences that



take place on a daily basis in the classroom. The information that is generated as a result of SNSA should be viewed as another source of assessment information that is available to the teacher. Indeed, in terms of its method of delivery, SNSA has been designed to appear, so far as the child or young person is concerned, as just another everyday learning experience. The information generated by SNSA will assist the teacher in arriving at his or her professional judgement about each child's progress in learning and can be used to support and plan for the appropriate next steps in their learning.

What does SNSA involve ?

What is being assessed?

SNSA focuses on aspects of reading, writing and numeracy.

Who is being assessed?

All children in P1, P4, P7 and S3.

When was Scottish National Standardised Assessments introduced?

SNSA was introduced in August 2017. They will take place annually from now on for each new cohort of pupils in the P1, P4, P7 and S3 stages.

When will the assessments take place?

The assessments are administered to each child once within the relevant school year at a time that is in line with each schools assessment plan that has been drawn up by the Head Teacher in consultation with staff.

How will the assessments take place?

Assessments are completed online and are marked

automatically giving teachers immediate feedback to help children progress.

How many times will your child take the assessments in a school session?

P1 children will take two SNSA assessments: one in literacy and one in numeracy. Children and young people at P4, P7 and S3 will take three SNSA assessments: one in reading, one in writing and one in numeracy.

What does this mean for your child?

Children do not have to revise or prepare for assessments. The assessments are used as part of routine teaching and learning to help teachers understand how well your child is progressing and to plan next steps.

The system is designed so if a child or young person is experiencing difficulty, the questions will get easier, and if the child or young person is doing well, the questions will become more challenging. In this way, the assessments establish children's capacity without them having to face lots of questions that are too easy or too hard for them to answer. There is no pass or fail mark set of any SNSA assessment.

The assessments are as short as possible and are age and stage appropriate. There is no time limit. This is to ensure that children and young people do not feel under unnecessary time pressure when taking the assessments. However, that the majority of children and young people will complete each assessment in no more than 45 minutes. No child will be expected to take all of the assessments – in reading, writing and numeracy – in one sitting.

