



SCOTTISH NATIONAL STANDARDISED ASSESSMENT (SNSA) **Parent/Carer Information**

What is SNSA?

During session 2017/18 the Scottish Government is introducing a new system of standardised assessments, called the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA), which will replace the variety of other standardised assessments (Incas and Pips) that have been used until now in local authorities across Scotland. The new system will be carried out by all schools across Scotland and will involve all children at the P1, P4, P7 and S3 stages of their education, focusing on aspects of reading, writing and numeracy.

What will SNSA involve?

The assessments are completed online and will be automatically marked by the online system, providing teachers with immediate feedback. The assessments do not have any pass/fail mark, as results are used to help teachers plan the next steps in learning for each child in order to help them make the best possible progress. SNSA is an adaptive system, which means that all pupils are challenged and receive an assessment suited to their ability. It is designed so that if a child is struggling with the initial questions being asked, it will make subsequent ones easier. Similarly, if the child copes well with the initial questions, it will make subsequent questions more challenging. They are designed to be used as part of normal teaching and learning and the information that they provide will be used in the same way as other assessment information which arises from day to day teaching and learning activities.

Pupils in P1 will take 2 assessments (one in literacy and one in numeracy) and pupils in P4, P7 and S3 will take three assessments (in reading, tools for writing and numeracy). The assessments are designed, as far as possible, to be appropriate for use with all children. Children who require additional support will be able to receive the support they normally receive in the classroom when completing the assessments.

How will the information from this assessment be used?

The information that is generated from SNSA adds to the range of other assessment information arising from normal teaching and learning activity. As such, it is designed to be used by teachers to assist them in identifying strengths and areas for development and for planning next steps in learning. As part of the range of assessment information available, SNSA will also assist teachers in assessing when key stages in learning, such as when a Curriculum for Excellence Level has been achieved.

Where can I find out further information about SNSA?

There is a link on our GLOW Blog to a much fuller SNSA Parent and Carer Leaflet. If you have any concerns or questions please contact the school.