



**Scottish Standardised Assessment Information for Parents**

**What's new?**

In August 2017 Scottish Government introduced the SNSA, a single, nationally developed set of standardised assessments for aspects of literacy and numeracy, designed to align with the way we deliver education in Scotland through Curriculum for Excellence.

These assessments are expected to replace the variety of existing standardised assessments that local authorities and schools use at the moment.

In addition to SNSA, ongoing and informal assessment continues to be a central part of everyday assessment in schools.

**What is being assessed?**

The SNSA assess aspects of reading, writing and numeracy, providing teachers with diagnostic information on children's progress in these areas.

**Who is being assessed?**

All children in P1, P4, P7 and S3 are assessed once a year in aspects of reading, writing and numeracy.

**When do the assessments take place?**

The assessments are administered to each child once within the relevant school year at a time chosen by the class teachers with guidance from their schools and local authorities. They decide the most appropriate time during the school year for your child to take the standardised assessments.

**What form do the assessments take?**

Children complete the assessments online and they are marked automatically, giving teachers immediate feedback to help children progress in literacy and numeracy.

**How many assessments do children and young people take in a school session?**

- P1 children take two SNSA assessments: one in literacy and one in numeracy.
- P4 children take three SNSA assessments: one in reading, one in writing and one in numeracy.
- P7 children take three SNSA assessments: one in reading, one in writing and one in numeracy.
- S3 young people 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 assessments are adaptive, which means that if a child is experiencing difficulty, the questions will get easier, and if a child 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.

The assessments are as short as possible and are age and stage appropriate. There is no time limit. This is to ensure children do not feel unnecessary time pressure when undertaking the assessments. The majority of P1 learners will complete each assessment in less than 30 minutes, while on average P4/P7/S3 learners complete within 40 minutes. Your child will not be expected to take assessments covering reading, writing, and numeracy in one sitting.