

East Lothian Council

SNSAs

1. If you conduct standardised assessments at local authority level as well as SNSAs in your schools, do you plan to retain the standardised assessments at local authority level as well as SNSAs in the long term? If so, please provide some detail on:

- a. the reasoning for this (what it provides that SNSA cannot),
- b. which assessment you use from which provider, and
- c. the annual cost of the local authority standardised assessments.

East Lothian Council made a commitment to discontinue the use of commercial standardised assessments previously undertaken at P1, P7 and S2 and focus on improving teacher professional judgement on achievement of a level and using the SNSA as part of the assessment evidence to inform this judgement

2. Does your local authority seek to guide your schools as to when in the academic year SNSAs should be carried out?

No, no assessment window set to ensure staff retain a focus on using the SNSA at individual pupil level as part of the range of assessment evidence informing strengths and next steps in learning

If your local authority does not prescribe a particular timescale for SNSAs, are you aware of any practice within your schools where senior management teams prescribe the timings and, if so, what do you consider to be the benefits of this approach?

This is not the practice we would expect to see in our schools and as such we would discuss this with the school and the rationale for this approach. In some of our large primary schools, an assessment window would be an issue in relation to accessing the technology to undertake the assessment.

3. Are you aware of the extent to which the results of SNSAs are shared with parents and, where age appropriate, children? Is there a local authority level policy on sharing this information? (for example, to aid development including learning at home with parental involvement)

East Lothian Council has issued guidance to schools and shared this guidance with East Lothian Council Parent Council Members Association (ELCPCMA).

4. Given the results of SNSAs are being analysed and reported on at a national level (linked below), are you provided with a breakdown of performance at local authority level of the results? Are you provided with a breakdown at school level or smaller cohorts (class level for example or for SIMD areas)? How will this data be used to improve education in your area?

In 2017-18 reports were provided through the SNSA system on the range of capacity achieved for each assessment, for each school within our local authority.

Additional summary charts were also provided at local authority level presenting information on eight learner characteristics by stage and subject area: Gender;

SIMD; Free School Meals, ASN, Ethnicity, Looked After, Looked After and accommodated and English as an additional language.

As the main aim of SNSA is to inform learning and teaching, the overall data will be used within the local authority for supporting moderation, sharing good practice and raising attainment.

5. How are you collating evidence on how the SNSAs are bedding in at local authority level? For example, the benefits to the teachers and as a consequence the children and young people or any practical concerns with how the tests are operating (resource issues including technology and also staff time, unintended consequences etc.)
Views on the implementation of the SNSA's and any unintended consequences were sought and discussed with headteachers. Headteachers were asked to provide feedback on any concerns/issues raised by staff. Functionality highlighted by some staff re P1 assessments but no universal agreement on this aspect. Headteachers involved in reviewing the local authority SNSA guidance. Validated self-evaluation visits explore the range of evidence being used to monitor and track pupils' progress and attainment, including the use of SNSA.