

Fife 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 is provided that SNSA cannot),**
- b. which assessment you use from which provider, and**
- c. the annual cost of the local authority standardised assessments.**

Response

We do not conduct alternative standardised assessments at a local authority level as well as SNSAs in our schools. However, because our schools had been very comfortable (prior to the introduction of SNSA) using PIPS, some of them decided to retain use of this, at least in the initial stages of SNSA.

2. Does your local authority seek to guide your schools as to when in the academic year SNSAs should be carried out? If so, please provide details and the rationale for your approach. 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?

Response

Through consultation with school staff, in the first year of SNSA, they themselves felt that there were times of the year that might be best to conduct SNSA. These were only ever suggestions and all Fife schools still retain the autonomy to assess pupils out with these times.

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).

Response

We do not know the full extent to which the results of SNSAs are shared with parents.

In our guidance for schools we state that:

- SNSA data will be used as an on-going part of learning, teaching and assessment.
- Data received will inform next steps in planning for children and young people.
- Information from our assessment activity should be shared with parents through discussion as part of the normal on-going parent/school dialogue on the learning process for individual children.

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 small cohorts (class level for example or for SIMD areas)? How will this data be used to improve education in your area?

Response

We use all data available to us to support local authority and school improvement. Schools make use of school and class level data to support improvement in learning and teaching.

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).

Response

Individual schools use data as part of their planning, tracking and monitoring systems within school and plan next steps for learning and teaching. After the first year of implementation SNSA data was used by Local Authority to identify trends across all schools at P1, P4, P7 and S3, this information was shared with all schools. Local authority regularly seeks feedback from Headteachers on any practical concerns and these have been shared with Scottish Government.