

North Ayrshire

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.**

We currently use GL assessments; but only for learners in P3, P6 and S2, where progress assessments are carried out in English and Maths.

The annual cost across the authority for this is £85k.

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?

During the first year we guided schools as to when would be best to carry out assessments due to the timing of SNSA training roll-out for practitioners. This is no longer the case with schools advised to carry these out at a time that best suits the needs of the school.

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)

Decisions about reporting to parents are made at school level, in line with current guidance about parental involvement. There is therefore no specific policy at authority level governing the sharing of this specific information.

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?

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-national-standardised-assessments-national-report-academic-year-2017-2018/>

Schools are provided with their own performance information only. This is to enable schools to use the assessment data for diagnostic and planning purposes as intended. This information is discussed as part of routine quality improvement visits

in individual schools. This data represents a range of sources of data to support teacher professional judgement. Comparator data is not collated or shared.

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.)

Staff have been asked for feedback and any issues arising. Visit 2 of our Quality Improvement Framework affords the opportunity to discuss standardised assessments at length and the benefits for staff and pupils.