

West Dunbartonshire

SNSAs

The Committee would very much appreciate your input to the inquiry. Specifically, the Committee seeks the perspective of your local authority on the following questions:

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 did not retain standardised assessments at local authority (LA) level.

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?

WDC does not guide schools when in the academic year to carry out assessments. We are not aware of any practices within our schools to prescribe the timings. However, we have advised Head Teachers to work in collaboration with staff at monitoring and review meetings to plan timescales for individual pupils and groups.

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).

The LA is not aware of the extent to which the results of SNSAs are shared with parent and there is no policy on sharing this 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/>

WDC uses the raw data provided by SNSA to conduct an analysis at LA and school level. This data is used as part of the WDC school improvement strategy to raise attainment and narrow the poverty related attainment gap.

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.)

Full details of the Committee's call for views and submissions are available on the inquiry webpage:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/110246.aspx>

It is early to give a definitive answer on the embedded nature of SNSA. However, WDC is working with Scholar as part of a research project into the use of SNSA for improvement. We are promoting with our Head Teachers the value of having a standardised form of assessment, like SNSA.