

Assessment within East Dunbartonshire schools

A guide for
Parents & Carers



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East Dunbartonshire Council

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How is children's learning in Scotland assessed?

Assessment is a central part of everyday learning and teaching for children and young people. Teachers gather evidence on an ongoing and informal basis through asking questions, observing children working together and making comments on their work. Some assessment is more formal, such as projects, investigations, case studies and assessments.

The assessment of children's progress throughout primary school and in secondary S1–S3 is based on teachers' views: their professional judgement. In making these judgements, teachers draw on their professional knowledge and understanding of the child as well as using a range of assessment information. They also apply recently published benchmarks for literacy and numeracy, which provide clear information about what children and young people should be able to do and demonstrate by the end of a Curriculum for Excellence level.

Within East Dunbartonshire Council, schools use a range of assessment information to track children's progress including:

- **Standardised assessment**
- **Periodic assessment**
- **End of unit assessments.**

The information gathered through standardised assessments is used as part of a suite of information to inform learning and teaching. Standardised assessments can provide a detailed breakdown of a child's ability in literacy and numeracy. Together with assessments from day-to-day learning and other assessment tasks or activities, standardised assessments can provide a detailed picture of children's progress.



What's new in assessment?

From June 2016, teachers of P1, P4, P7 and S3 classes have been asked at the end of every school year whether children have achieved the relevant Curriculum for Excellence level for their stage in reading, writing, talking and listening (literacy), and their ability to understand and work with numbers (numeracy). Most children are expected to have achieved the early level by the end of P1, first level by the end of P4, second level by the end of P7 and third and fourth level by the end of S3. The Scottish Government then publishes the information received from teachers, to show the percentage of children who have achieved Curriculum for Excellence levels in literacy and numeracy in individual schools, across councils and at a national level. No individual child is identifiable from published information.

In August 2017, new, national standardised assessments were introduced in all schools in Scotland. These assessments provide an additional source of nationally consistent evidence for teachers to use when assessing children's progress.

What are the Scottish Standardised National Assessments (SNSA)?

What will the new standardised assessments involve?

Every child in P1, P4, P7 and S3 will undertake national standardised assessments covering some aspects of reading, writing and working with numbers:

- Assessments will be completed online and will be automatically marked by the online system, giving teachers immediate feedback to help children progress.
- The assessments will be used to help teachers understand how well your child is progressing with his or her learning and to plan next steps. There will be no pass or fail.
- The system will be designed so that if a child is struggling with the questions they will get easier, and if a child is doing well the questions will become more challenging.
- The standardised assessments will be as short as possible and will be age and stage appropriate.

- Your child will not be expected to take assessments covering reading, writing and working with numbers in one sitting.
- There will be no set day or period of time during which the national standardised assessments must be taken.

Teachers, in consultation with schools and local authorities, will decide the most appropriate time during the school year for your child to take the national standardised assessments. As such, within East Dunbartonshire, the broad time frame during which these assessments will be administered will be from October to December. However teachers, in consultation with school management, can opt to administer the assessments at a more appropriate time if required.

- The assessments will, as far as possible, accommodate the needs of children who require additional support and aim to be as inclusive as possible. Children with additional support needs should be provided with their usual classroom support in order to take part in the assessments.

What does this mean for my child?

Teachers will judge whether children have achieved Curriculum for Excellence levels at the end of P1, P4, P7 and S3. This will help to ensure the next year's teacher knows how well children are progressing in their learning and can plan next steps and provide further support accordingly. Providing the right support at the right time will help to ensure your child can reach his or her potential.

As many teachers and schools across Scotland, including East Dunbartonshire, are already using a variety of standardised assessments, many children will already be familiar with taking this form of assessment.

Your child will not have to revise or prepare for national standardised assessments. There will be no additional workload for your child and the assessments will offer no distraction from daily learning. Within East Dunbartonshire, information will be provided by your child's school about the planned arrangements for SNSA. In addition, school websites and handbooks will be updated to



include information on the new Scottish National Standardised Assessments.

Your child's school will use information from the Scottish National Standardised Assessments, along with a range of other assessment information, to discuss strengths as well as next steps in learning using their usual reporting procedures.

What does this mean for me as a parent?

Standardised assessments will provide information about where your child did well and where further support is required. Teachers will use this information, alongside a wide range of other assessment information, to discuss with you how your child is progressing with their learning.



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Other formats

This document can be provided in large print, Braille or on CD and can be translated into other community languages. Please contact the Council's Communications Team at:

East Dunbartonshire Council, 12 Strathkelvin Place, Southbank,
Kirkintilloch, G66 1TJ Tel: 0300 123 4510

本文件可按要求翻譯成中文，如有此需要，請電 0300 123 4510。

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ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0300 123 4510 ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Gabhaidh an sgrìobhainn seo cur gu Gàidhlig ma tha sin a dhìth oirbh. Cuiribh fòin gu 0300 123 4510

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