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Dear Parent / Guardian

Scottish National Standardised Assessments - SNSA

Aberdeenshire Council advises that all pupils in P1, P4, P7 and S3 should participate in the annual Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSAs).

In line with national advice, the only exceptions to this would be where the child/young person has significant additional support needs which would make his/her participation extremely difficult and/or inappropriate.

Aberdeenshire Council is aware of the independent review into the use of SNSAs at P1 stage, set up by the Depute First Minister in October and will consider its position following the outcome of this process and any subsequent advice from Scottish Government in response to the review. In the meantime, on the basis of the experience of using SNSA during 2017-18, Aberdeenshire Council:

1. Supports the position of the Scottish Government and the Association of Directors of Education in seeing the SNSAs as “... *an integral part of everyday learning for children and young people in P1, P4, P7 and S3, delivered as part of the education authority’s duty to provide education.*”
2. Believes that considerable benefits can arise from the SNSA in terms of the important diagnostic information it provides the teacher in the key areas of literacy and numeracy, to support the ongoing planning of teaching and learning experiences for the child/young person.
3. Acknowledges the range of enhancements to SNSA taken by Scottish Government for 2018/19 to improve the way that children and young people are assessed, to provide a better experience for younger pupils and to provide more advice to teachers. These enhancements followed the Scottish Government’s own review of the 2017-18 experience of implementing SNSA, details of which are available at

<https://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781787811201>.

The SNSAs, in common with virtually all aspects of the Scottish curriculum and its delivery, are not provided for in legislation. This means that they cannot be seen as compulsory, but also that there cannot be a legal right for parents to withdraw their children from the assessments, or indeed any other part of the school curriculum (with the exception of some parts of religious observance and instruction).

At Fraserburgh Academy it is our intention that our S3 learners will sit these three online assessments in Numeracy, Reading and Writing over a three-week period time starting immediately after the Easter break and that these assessments will be held during PSE time to avoid disruption to curricular classes.

Should you require any further information about these assessments then please do not hesitate to contact me at Fraserburgh Academy

Regards

Kevin Buchan

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