

F/T: 0131-244 4762
E: nationalimprovementframework@gov.scot

To all Headteachers (early years, primary
and secondary)

25 November 2016

Dear Headteacher

The June 2016 Delivery Plan for Scottish Education contained a commitment to develop a comprehensive parent communication plan for the National Improvement Framework. That communication plan was published in October 2016 and further committed the Scottish Government and Education Scotland, in consultation with parent organisations, to producing information for parents and carers on assessment, alongside a question and answer document. The Deputy First Minister launched these documents and more detailed information for teachers this morning.

Alongside the information for parents we have produced a more detailed leaflet on the assessment model for the broad general education and a Q&A focusing on where the new national standardised assessments fit within this assessment model, from the point of their introduction in August 2017. These more detailed documents were developed for a teacher audience, and are intended to ensure that your teachers have the information they need, to be able to respond accurately to parents' and carers' queries and concerns about the way their child is assessed. Links to these documents are contained within the information for anyone who has a particular interest in finding out more.

The national standardised assessments will be a valuable tool to help inform teachers' professional judgement when evaluating whether children have achieved the relevant Curriculum for Excellence levels for their stage. It is important to help parents and carers understand that they are not high stakes tests, nor will they replace the key role of teachers' professional judgement in assessing children's progress.

I would like to ask that you make this material widely available to the parents and teachers within your school community and would encourage you to invite discussion around the assessment model and the developments arising from the National Improvement Framework with both the parents/carers and staff in your school. Many schools are revisiting their approach to assessment within BGE as this work progresses. Teachers are most confident in schools where there is real clarity on the assessment model and the evidence used to inform teacher judgement.

If you have any further questions please send an email to :

nationalimprovementframework@gov.scot

Yours sincerely,



Graeme Logan,
Strategic Director
Education Scotland