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Dear Parent/Carer,

SNSA Standardisation Norming Study - Guidance for Parents/Carers

The Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA) are now available to schools and local authorities. Over 10,000 have already been taken. The main purpose of the assessments is to provide information for teachers on how well children are doing in literacy and numeracy and to help guide learning and teaching. The assessments are also designed to produce national-level information about children and young people's progress for teachers' use in school and the Scottish Government at national level. National level information covers the whole of Scotland and not individual schools.

To ensure national-level information is as useful as possible to teachers, the Scottish Government need to carry out a "norming study" to ensure that it is representative of Scotland as a whole. A norming study involves a random sample of Scottish children and young people in Primary 1, Primary 4, Primary 7 and Secondary 3 taking the assessments within a specified period. Two norming studies will be conducted in the 2017-18 school year: one in November and one in March.

As a parent/carer of a child or young person who has been chosen to participate in the norming study, I am writing to you to provide you with information about the process.

The Norming Study Process

The first norming study will take place during the last two weeks in November. A total of around 8,800 learners from across Scotland have been drawn in the random sample for the November norming study, including small numbers of children in most Scottish schools.

Your child has been selected to take part in the "norming study" – What will this mean?

Children who take part in the norming study will be asked to take one national standardised assessment (either numeracy or literacy, for Primary 1; or numeracy, reading or writing for Primary 4, Primary 7 or Secondary 3) during the period 20 November to 1 December 2017.

The purpose of the norming study is to provide anonymised, national-level information. Its purpose is not to assess individuals. This means that individual and school level reports will not be provided for learners who take these additional assessments.

Children included in the November norming sample will still undertake the Scottish National Standardised Assessments as normal, at a time of the school's choosing.

Children involved in the November norming study will not be involved in the March study.

Summary - What you need to know:

- If your child is selected to take part in the norming study your child will take the assessment in class as part of their everyday school work.
- Information collected from the norming study will not be used to analyse individual outcomes
- The purpose of the norming study assessment is to gather anonymised national-level information only. All individual data about your child will be erased after the national data has been analysed.
- Teachers are not identified in the gathering or use of norming study data
- Norming study data will be used to create national-level information to help to inform and support teacher judgement when assessing the progress of children and young people
- The norming study will use the same assessments as the regular Scottish National Standardised Assessments available throughout the 2017-18 academic year.