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Your Ref:
Our Ref: MCNG Parent/Carer Letter
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Dear Parent/Carer

Measaidhean Coitcheann Nàiseanta airson Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig (MCNG) National Gaelic Medium Standardised Assessments

The Scottish Government published the National Improvement Framework (NIF) to improve schools in January 2016. An important element of the NIF is the introduction of National Standardised Assessments. Following the recent Scottish Government announcement, it is pleasing to confirm that the MCNG assessments are now live for use in Gaelic medium (GM) schools/departments. Assessments will be delivered for primary pupils in GM1, GM4, GM7 and in secondary at S3 stage in literacy and numeracy, through the medium of Gaelic.

MCNG assessments are aligned with Curriculum for Excellence and have been designed specifically to reflect the way we deliver education in Scotland. As far as possible, the MCNG mirror the assessment approach adopted for the English medium Scottish National Standardised Assessments, whilst accommodating the particular features of the immersion approach to Gaelic Medium Education (GME).

Earlier this year, Highland Council was selected to work closely with national partners to develop MCNG content and trial the assessments in our schools. As such, the Local Authority is confident that pupils can look forward to a high quality, positive learner experience. Used in conjunction with professional judgement, the rich data provided by the assessments will inform learning and teaching experiences for pupils, teachers and schools; in addition to supporting local and national improvements through the identification and sharing of good practice.

Ongoing and informal assessment is, and will continue to be, the main basis upon which teachers make their professional judgements about children's progress. Teachers will continue to draw on all of the assessment information available to them when considering children's progress and planning next steps in learning.

A robust programme of development, led by Education Scotland and overseen by the Scottish Government, ensures that MCNG will provide an accessible and transparent experience for children and young people. Assessments are GM bespoke (not translated) and adaptive, which means that they align with the needs of pupils to provide a unique assessment experience for each individual pupil.

What does this mean for my child(ren)?

- Assessments will be introduced in this academic year (2018/19) and conducted under the supervision of school staff.
- The assessments are presented online with the use of a computer, laptop, Chromebook or tablet. This approach provides teachers with immediate feedback to help support pupil progress.
- The system will be designed so that if a child is struggling, the questions will get easier, and if a child is doing well, the questions will become more challenging.
- Your child will not be expected to revise or prepare for the assessments. Standardised assessments should be seen by your child as just another aspect of daily learning.
- There are no time limits to assessments. Work is automatically saved and pupils can return to the assessment later, if required.
- Typically, a child will spend no longer than 40 minutes on an assessment, and it will normally be less than this.
- The assessments will be used to help teachers identify individual children's strengths and the areas in which they would benefit from further support; and to plan next steps in learning accordingly. There will be no pass or fail.
- Pupil data will be managed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

More information about the [National Improvement Framework](#) for Scottish Education, and the wider approach to assessing children's progress through Primary and early Secondary can be found through the following web addresses:

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/schools/national-improvement-framework/>

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-in-scotland/assessment-and-achievement/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/assessing-childrens-progress-guide-for-parents-and-carers/>

Your child(ren)'s Head Teacher is best placed to respond to individual queries regarding the implementation of MCNG in their school, however in the first instance please take an opportunity to visit the following MCNG website, which is full of helpful information for parents/carers:

<https://measaidheancoitcheann.gov.scot/en/parents>

Kind regards



Jim Steven

Head of Education

Highland Council