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What is the National Improvement Framework?

The National Improvement Framework will bring together key information on education to allow us to look at how we are performing and where we need to do more to improve. The information will be used to help improve attainment and wider achievements for children. It will be used by teachers for individual children, by Headteachers in conjunction with Parent Councils for school improvement, by local authorities and Scottish Government.

The information gathered will cover six key areas:

- **School improvement** – this will use school self-evaluation to see how improvement is progressing within schools and would be informed by How good is our school? and how well parents and schools are working together on school improvement planning and reporting
- **School leadership** – this will assess leadership development for all teachers, as well as introducing a requirement for all Headteachers to hold the new Headship qualifications

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- **Teacher professionalism** – this will look at the continuous professional development of teachers and new masters level learning, as well as additional resources and support for existing and trainee teachers
- **Assessment of children's progress** – this will introduce new national standardised assessments to support your child's learning and progression, providing you with additional information to enable you to further support your child
- **Parental involvement** – this is a fundamental element of the Framework and will ensure that information for parents about their child's progress is provided to enable parents to take an active part in their child's learning and in their school. The Framework aims to develop and enhance existing parental engagement arrangements
- **Performance information** – this will focus on how the range of evidence gathered is used for improvement and the reporting arrangements.

New standardised assessments

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The Framework will include new standardised assessments for children in P1, P4, P7 and S3 in reading, writing and numeracy. Aspects of the new assessments will be piloted in Challenge Authority schools in 2016, before use nationally in 2017. The new assessments are being introduced to bring greater consistency to Curriculum for Excellence and to the information on the broad general education (P1 to S3). Teachers will also be able to use the assessments to inform judgments on children's progress. The assessments will be designed so that they are accessible and inclusive for children with additional support needs.

How will parents be involved?

By providing more meaningful information about the progress of their children, the Framework will help parents to support their child's education both at home and at school. The information will be drawn from teachers' professional judgment, supported by feedback from the new assessments. Parent Councils will also have a wider range of information to help them support school improvement.

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Publication

Our plans are to publish the final National Improvement Framework around the end of 2015/early 2016. We will continue to consult parents on what we are doing and provide further information as aspects of the Framework are developed and implemented.

In the meantime, please send your views on the draft Framework. You can do that by:
Emailing nationalimprovementframework@gov.scot or via Survey Monkey (until 16 Nov)
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9BY9XFC>

More information can be found at
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/NationalImprovementFramework>