

The Added Value of Scotland's National Assessment System in Understanding and Sharing the Standard

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In Scotland, national monitoring of pupils aged between 5 and 14 years is carried out through the Scottish Survey of Achievement (SSA). The SSA uses written and practical assessments constructed with the help of practising teachers. Teachers act as field officers to deliver the practical part of the survey and engage in the central moderation of pupils' writing. The survey also includes questionnaires for teachers and pupils in the sample, asking about their teaching and learning experiences. The survey collects information about teachers' assessments of each of the sampled pupils' attainment and makes comparisons with the data from the written survey, though individual schools and pupils remain anonymous.

The assessment tasks used in the survey are subsequently made available to teachers to assist in quality assuring their own professional judgements.

The SSA is considered by some teachers to be a burden with no appreciable benefits. By others, it is considered a professionally rewarding experience.

The workshop will seek to identify the cost and gains of the Scottish Survey of Achievement for all the partners in the education community.