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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



MONTHLY BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2024



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CLIC
WLGA

Message from the SSCE Cymru team...

“Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed a well-deserved Summer break and are ready for the new academic year ahead. We would like to take this opportunity to say Croeso/welcome to Rebecca (Becca) Curtis, a new member of the SSCE Cymru team. We look forward to working with Becca and introducing her to our network members and to those of you that come along to any of the SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions in the coming months. Becca has joined us as maternity cover for Yasmin, who is currently on full time parenting duties (no easy task!), after welcoming her second child to the world in August. Many congratulations to the Todd/Clarke family!

Also, a warm Croeso/welcome to any new Service children / young people and their families who have moved to Wales over the Summer holidays. We understand how daunting it can be starting a new school, but we hope the excitement of making new friends will ease your nerves. Good luck and once you're settled, it might be worth asking a member of school staff if there is a Little Troopers or Forces Life Club that you can join at school. It's a great way to meet more Service children / young people and make new friends, who may have experienced similar things to you. If you've joined one of our amazing [Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru](#), then there should be a member of school staff ready to support you.

The SSCE Cymru team will continue to support schools with Service children this year, so if you wish to contact us regarding this, then please direct all enquiries to SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk.”



Millie
Programme
Manager



Jo
Participation
Lead Officer



Cara
School Liaison
Officer



Becca
School Liaison
Officer

SSCE Cymru team

Programme Manager



Millie

- Coordinates and delivers SSCE Cymru activities aligned to the SSCE Cymru mission.
- Ensures Service children's experiences are understood and responded to in Wales.
- Represents Wales to share good practice across the UK.

School Liaison Officers



Cara



Becca

- Work with schools and local authorities to identify Service children and maintain a database of school contacts.
- Promote the SSCE Cymru e-learning package.
- Work with education settings to embed support for Service children:
 - Utilise SSCE Cymru resources (School Toolkit and Tools, Funding guidance)
 - Achieve their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status
 - Celebrate Month of the Military Child
 - Access funding to support Service children and families.
- Identify and promote good practice in schools.

SLOs are funded by:  ARMED FORCES
EDUCATION
TRUST

Participation Lead Officer



Jo

Works with schools to:

- Listen to Service children
- Set up Service children clubs
- Facilitate opportunities for Service children to come together to share their experiences
- Celebrate Service children's experiences
- Share the voices of Service children.

Contact:
SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk

Welcome Becca...

“Hi, I’m Becca and will be working with the SSCE Cymru team as a School Liaison Officer (SLO).

I have a background in Teaching and Additional Learning Needs previously working as a specialist in this field in schools in England. As mother of a Service child, I have first-hand experience of Armed Forces life and have moved to Wales this Summer following my husband’s posting in the Army.

I am really excited to be joining the team and am looking forward to working on projects to further support Service children across Wales.”



Becca
School Liaison Officer

The definition of a Service child

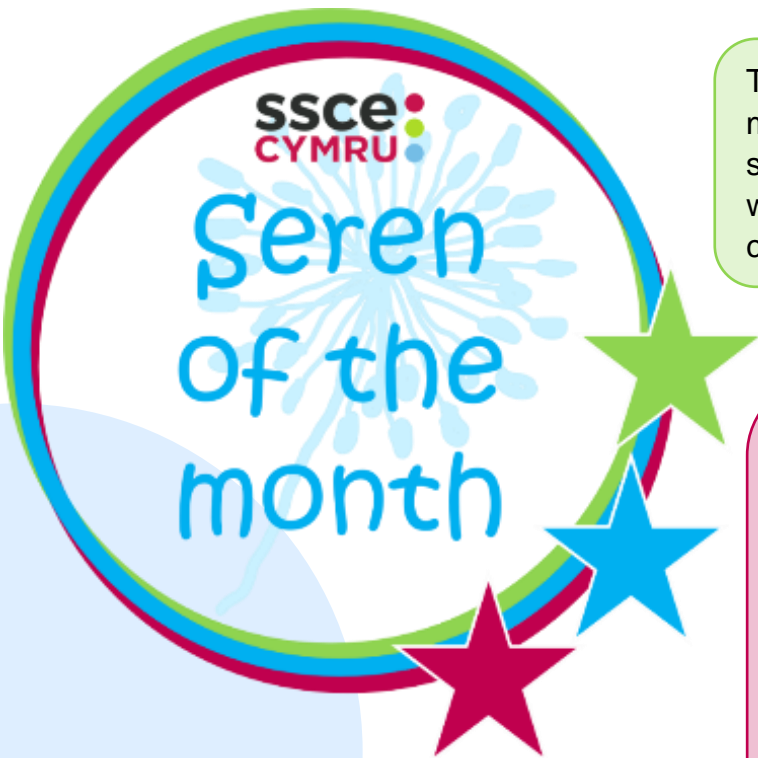
Welsh Governments definition of a Service child

A 'Service child' has parent(s) or person(s) exercising parental responsibility who is/are Service personnel serving:

- In HM Regular or Reserve Armed Forces – Royal Navy and Royal Marines; British Army and Royal Air Force, **Or***
- Is an Armed Forces Veteran who has been in Service within the past two years, **Or***
- One of their parents died whilst serving in the Armed Forces and the learner has received a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.*

SSCE Cymru also encourages schools to consider identifying children and young people who don't fit within the above definition but have a link to the Armed Forces.

For data collection purposes, the above definition should be used by all schools and local authorities in Wales.



This is an opportunity for our team to publicly recognise an SSCE Cymru STAR, and say thank you to a Service child, member of school staff, work colleague, network member or organisation that have positively collaborated with us or shown exceptional support to Service children in education and their local Armed Forces community. We are grateful to work with some truly inspiring individuals and groups who ensure that Service children continue to feel valued and celebrated here in Wales.

Seren of the month – September 2024

Lois has worked tirelessly over the past few years to embed good practice for supporting the Service children / young people at Llanwern High School and to champion them and their experiences. She has accessed funding to start a project for the Service pupils to lead, linking in with the local Veteran's Hub, and to undergo Lego Therapy training to help support the wellbeing of Service pupils.

Additionally, Lois ensures that the Service pupils from Llanwern High School have the opportunity to attend any events linked to celebrating Month of the Military Child and Armed Forces Day.

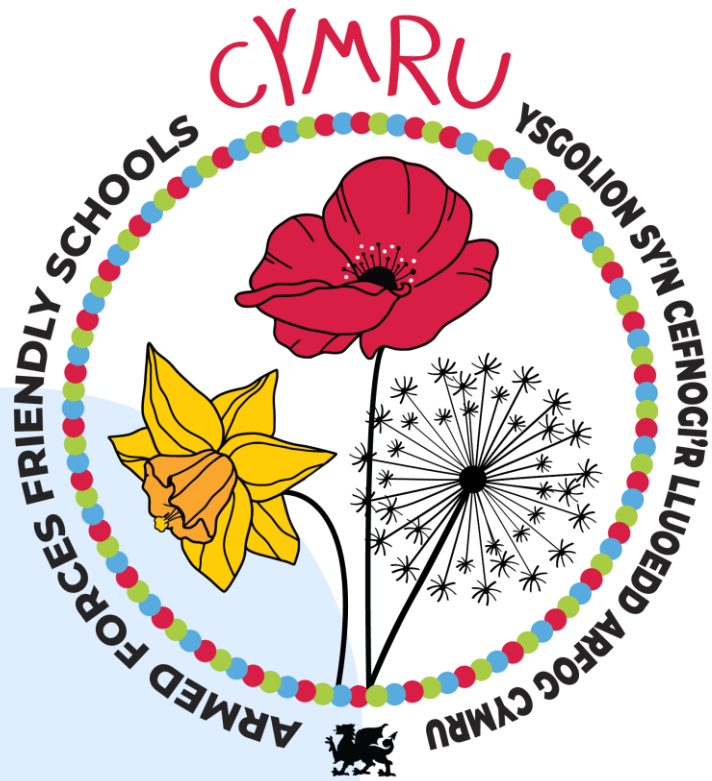
Lois' efforts have resulted in Llanwern High School being awarded their Bronze *Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru* Status and becoming not only the first school in Gwent to achieve this.

So much gratitude goes out to Lois for all of her hard work in making Llanwern High a school that not only makes the effort to identify their Service pupils but to ensure their needs are identified and met and give them the opportunities to talk about their experiences of being from a Service family.

Well done and thank you Lois!



Lois Walker
Deputy DSP / SSCE Cymru Co-ordinator
Llanwern High School



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SSCE Cymru's Armed Forces Friendly Schools (AFFS) Cymru initiative was launched in 2022. Schools in Wales complete a series of activities and actions that are linked to the SSCE Cymru School Checklist, including some compulsory elements, in order to achieve their Bronze, then Silver, then Gold status. The objectives are to embed good practice for supporting Service children, create a positive environment for Service children to share their experiences and encourage schools to become more engaged with their Armed Forces community.

Congratulations to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. So far, 30 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 30 have achieved Bronze, 7 have achieved Silver and 4 have achieved Gold!!!



30



7

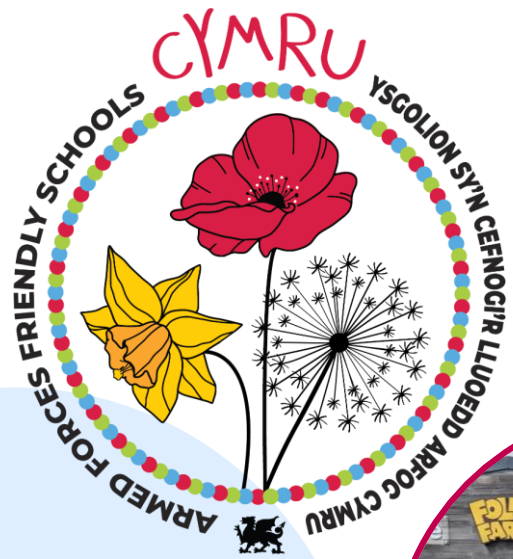


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See the next page for images of how schools in Wales have celebrated achieving their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status.



[Click here for further information about Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru](#)



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SSCE Cymru e-learning

To celebrate Month of the Military Child in April, the SSCE Cymru team launched our highly anticipated **NEW** on-demand, bi-lingual, e-learning training package on *Supporting Service children in education in Wales*!!!!

Funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, the SSCE Cymru e-learning training package has been designed to give educators the tools and confidence to understand and support the needs of Service children within their education settings in Wales however, the training can be accessed by anyone who would like to learn more about supporting Service children within education.

This **FREE** training package consists of nine topics and will take roughly two hours to complete. Your progress will be saved so that you can continue where you left off and revisit the training as required.

Topics included in the e-learning:

- Introduction to SSCE Cymru
- Armed Forces in Wales
- Service children's experiences
- Education in Wales
- Identifying Service children
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Extra-curricular activities
- Funding to support Service children
- Research and evidence.

"Hearing from the children was great."

"It was very interesting to learn of the different mobility, deployment and transitions that families experience."

"Great links that I will use and very comprehensive. I loved the videos."

"Excellent information and support available."

100% of participants found the e-learning beneficial

NOW AVAILABLE



**ARMED FORCES
COVENANT**
LLUOEDD ARFOG
CYFAMOD



Upcoming events...

INSPIRING IMPACT

SCiP Alliance
Annual Conference

13th Nov 24

Cardiff Marriott Hotel



Service Children's Progression
 **ALLIANCE**

www.scipalliance.org

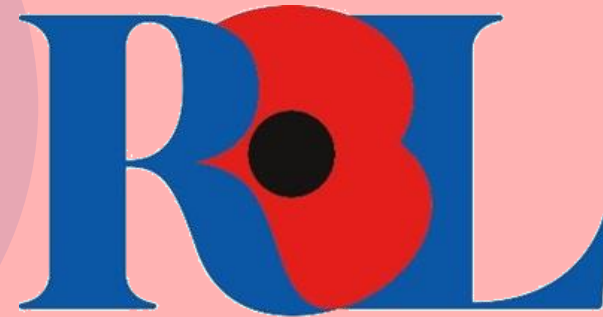
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Remembrance 2024

11th November 2024

Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



[Click here for further information about all upcoming events](#)

 CLILC
WLGA

SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions

Every month, SSCE Cymru host a series of informal drop-in sessions focusing on specific themes. Come along to any of the sessions that interest you, where members of the SSCE Cymru team will share relevant information, promote resources, coordinate discussions, answer your questions and create opportunities for collaboration.

SEPTEMBER schedule

Mon 2nd

Tue 3rd

Wed 4th

Thu 5th

Fri 6th

Mon 9th

2pm Local Authority Action Plan

Tue 10th

10am SC voice (Secondary)
2pm SC voice (Primary)

Wed 11th

10am SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit
3pm AFFS Cymru

Thu 12th

10am Funding for supporting SC
2pm AFFS Cymru

Fri 13th

10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

Mon 16th

2pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

Tue 17th

2pm Service children voice (Secondary)

Wed 18th

Thu 19th

10am Service children voice (Primary)
3pm AFFS Cymru

Fri 20th

10am Local Authority Action Plan

Mon 23rd

Tue 24th

Wed 25th

Thu 26th

Fri 27th

Mon 30th

10am AFFS Cymru
3pm Funding for supporting SC



See the further details, including the full timetable and joining instructions here

SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions

OCTOBER schedule

Tue 1st
2pm SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit

Wed 2nd
10am Service children voice (Primary)
3pm AFFS Cymru

Thu 3rd
10am Remembrance

Fri 4th

Mon 7th
10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

Tue 8th
2pm Service children voice (Secondary)

Wed 9th
10am Funding for supporting Service children

Thu 10th
10am Local Authority Action Plan
3pm AFFS Cymru

Fri 11th

Mon 14th
2pm Service children voice (Primary)

Tue 15th
3pm Data collection

Wed 16th
10am SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit
2pm AFFS Cymru

Thu 17th
3pm Funding for supporting Service children

Fri 18th
10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

Mon 21st
2pm Remembrance

Tue 22nd
2pm Local Authority Action Plan

Wed 23rd
2pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

Thu 24th
10am Service children voice (Secondary)

Fri 25th

Mon 28th

Tue 29th

Wed 30th



See the further details, including the full timetable and joining instructions [here](#)

Funding...

Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund (SSCE-WF)

In 2024/25, schools and local authorities (LAs) in Wales can apply for funding throughout the year, to deliver projects specific to supporting Service children in education, linked to the curriculum in Wales.



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government

£1,000 projects – open to all schools and local authorities in Wales.

£3,000 projects – open to schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru Bronze status and all local authorities.



See further
information
here

**NEXT
DEADLINE:
25th Oct.**

SSCE Cymru case management support

Case management is available to schools that have an individual Service child or a very small number of Service children with a specific need related to the impact of their Armed Forces lifestyle.

See further
information
here

SSCE Cymru funding advice document

This document provides advice from the SSCE Cymru team for schools and local authorities, to assist them when applying for funding to support Service children / local Armed Forces community.

It also includes a checklist of suggested actions to help when preparing and completing a funding application as well as a list of funding ideas and suggestions.

Available
here