



## **Supporting Service Children in Wales Fund 2018/19** **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Q1. My school only has a small percentage of Service/Reserves children in it, is there any point in me making a bid?**

A. Yes. The Welsh Government and the WLGA recognise that in some cases it may be that a school with a smaller percentage of Service children may actually be affected in a greater way by exceptional mobility or deployment issues. We would like the Fund to be as inclusive as possible but will need to ensure that value for money in every bid is achieved. It could be that a school with lower numbers of Service children could club together with schools with similar needs and form a joint bid.

**Q2. There are several schools in my area, all with similar needs, can we provide a joint bid?**

A. Yes, we would welcome joint bids as they often offer value for money for both applicants and the Fund. These can either be through schools or from local authorities. A joint bid would need to include details of all the schools in the bid, how the money/resource would be split and in the case of schools it would require a lead school to be identified which would then act as focal point and receive the grant.

**Q3. Can a school apply separately if they are also included in a joint/cluster bid?**

A. Yes, but the two bids must not be for the same thing, as this constitutes double funding.

**Q4. What is the point of the Military Sponsor?**

A. It is important that applications support the school but also represent the views of the Armed Forces (AF) community that it supports. The military sponsor will be the person from the AF community (this could be AF personnel) that you have had most contact with. This military sponsor will need to agree to be contacted by SSCE for their view on the application if required.

**Q5. Where can I get more information about the Fund?**

A. See <http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/supporting-service-children-in-wales-fund> for information on the process, criteria, bid ideas, FAQs, application pack and closing date. Alternatively, any questions should be directed to [ssce@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:ssce@wlga.gov.uk)

**Q6. I've submitted a bid, what happens next?**

A. All bids will be sent to the funding panel, where they will be reviewed and decisions made on successful bids and the allocation of funding. All bidders, successful or not, will be informed of the outcome by 20 July 2018 via email.

**Q7. There are Service/Reserves children within my school but we are not affected by exceptional mobility or deployment issues; should I make a bid anyway?**

A. Priority will be given to those bids that reflect a need based on either current or future, where known, exceptional mobility and deployment issues.

**Q8. I organise an Early Years Foundation Stage childcare facility which has a Service personnel contingent, can I bid for money?**

A. Unfortunately not, this Fund is specifically for schools with Service children in them. It cannot be used for childcare facilities or indeed for colleges of further education. The Armed Forces Covenant Grant Scheme may be an alternative option to consider.

**Q9. We have identified a long term requirement for assistance, what financial support can the Welsh Government supply?**

A. The Welsh Government/WLGA is making funding available for the 2018/19 academic year and will not be entering into any longer term financial commitment.

**Q10. Is there a limit to the number of bids that a school can make in a given period i.e. one per term/per year?**

A. There will only be one application round in 2018 and schools are allowed to make one individual bid and be part of a cluster bid with other schools. A bid can contain several different items within it and each element should be individually costed.

**Q11. The Fund will have to be divided up between all bids which are agreed. How much can one school realistically bid for?**

A. Schools/local authorities should make a realistic bid for what they actually need but a bid would also benefit from showing what could be done with a reduced amount. Bids will be scrutinised to ensure they show value for money, the Welsh Government and WLGA will also be looking across the wider area in case economies of scale mean that it might be more effective to provide alternative solutions to better benefit a higher number of schools.

**Q12. If a bid is rejected is there an appeals process?**

A. Each bid will receive a written response of the outcome of their bid which will briefly explain the reason for any unsuccessful bid. There will be no appeals process.

**Q13. I have a bid that will run during our academic year but stretches over fiscal years is this allowed?**

A. Successful applicants will receive the 2018 funding in September for the academic year September 2018 to Summer 2019.

**Q14. Are there any plans for Service Children Education (SCE) overseas schools to be able to bid for funds?**

A. No. As the money can primarily only be allocated to state funded schools and Local Authorities in Wales, and SCE serves UK military communities overseas, it will not be able to bid for funds. Schools working in partnership with SSCE, or other legitimate parties will have their bids considered.

**Q15. Will successful applicants from previous rounds be able to apply for a grant in subsequent rounds?**

A. Yes, the Funding Panel are happy to accept bids from Schools that have been successful in applications for the MOD ESF in previous years.

**Q16. Why do we need to send you a signed bank details page and signed headed paper?**

A. A hard copy of your bank details with two authorising signatures, together with the signed headed paper (which should be signed by one of those signing the bank details page) is required by our finance department in order for payment to be made. Failure to send us this paperwork when requested will result in a payment delay to successful applicants. ***Do not send us your **bank details** or headed paper until you have been notified of the outcome of your application.***

**Q17. I have submitted my application but not received a bid number, what should I do?**

A. You should receive your bid number within five working days. If you do not, it is your responsibility to contact [ssce@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:ssce@wlga.gov.uk) to ensure that your bid has been received and ask for a bid number to be issued.

**Q18. Where do I send my application once complete?**

A. Only electronic applications will be accepted for bids against the 2018 Supporting Service Children in Wales Fund. Please send completed application forms to [ssce@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:ssce@wlga.gov.uk) by 30 June 2018.