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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



MONTHLY BULLETIN

MARCH 2025



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WLGA

Message from the SSCE Cymru team...

"Happy St David's Day/Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus! As March ushers in Spring, we're reminded of the power of change. Change – the act of becoming different – resonates deeply with Armed Forces families. Many Service children face constant change, from new postings to new schools and friends. For most, the ability to adapt quickly is a positive trait they carry with them into the future.

Looking ahead to April, we celebrate the Month of the Military Child, a time to honour the strength and courage of these children. Despite facing unique challenges – separations, transitions, and unpredictability – they rise to meet them all. Let's take this opportunity to show them just how much we appreciate their sacrifices.

Here's to a special [Month of the Military Child](#), filled with recognition, celebration, and gratitude for all they give. Change can be tough, but they often make it look easy! If you'd like advice or support on how your school can celebrate, then please contact us via SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk, diolch yn fawr/thank you!"



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:



Participation Lead Officer



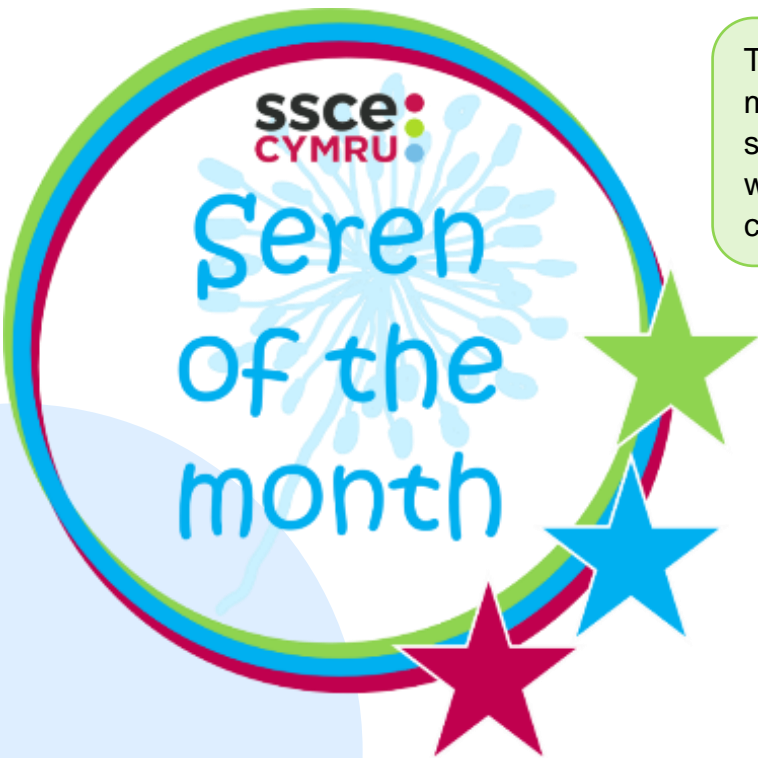
Jo

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



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 – March 2025

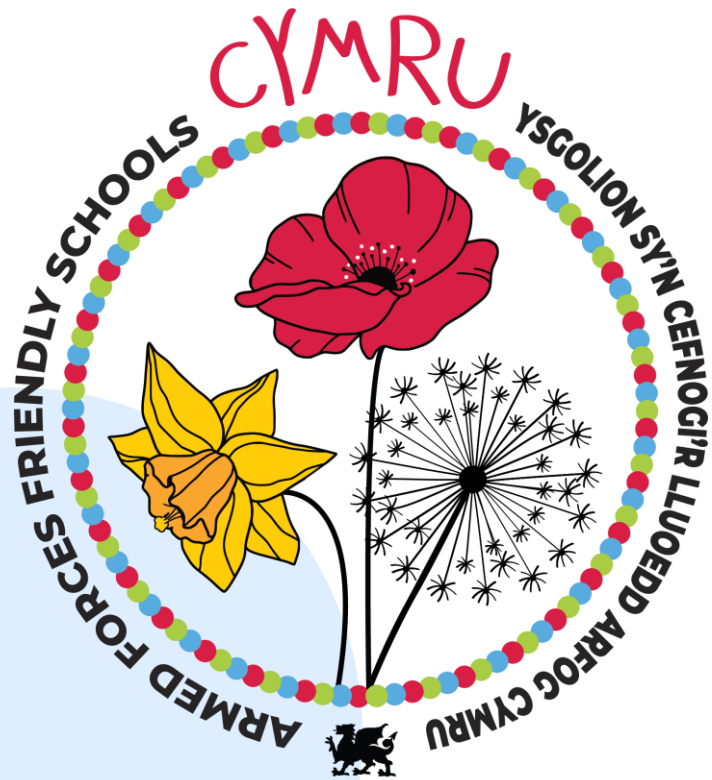
It has been a pleasure working with Headteacher Laura Martin to support Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog's Service children. These children often face the challenge of having a parent away during the week due to their service commitments, which can be difficult to navigate. Despite the very small number of Service children at the school, Laura is incredibly proactive in ensuring they receive the best education possible and that their voices are always heard. This outstanding commitment has resulted in the school recently achieving their Silver Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status.

In addition, in collaboration with SSCE Cymru, Laura has been successful in applying for funding, to support the emotional wellbeing of these children, providing them with the necessary resources to thrive both academically and personally.

Thank you, Laura, for being a shining example of how a school with a small Armed Forces community can do so much to support your Service children!



Laura Martin
Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog



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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.

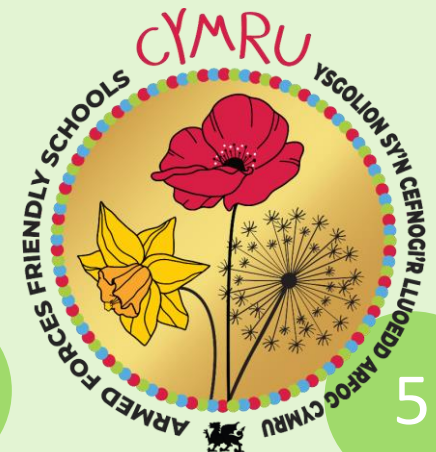
This month, we are pleased to congratulate the following schools for achieving their AFFS Cymru status:

Silver: Ysgol Cwm Brombil (Neath Port Talbot)

Silver: Ysgol Bae Baglan (Neath Port Talbot)

Gold: St Athan Primary School (Vale of Glamorgan)

Congratulations to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. So far, 33 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 33 have achieved Bronze, 10 have achieved Silver and 5 have achieved Gold!!!

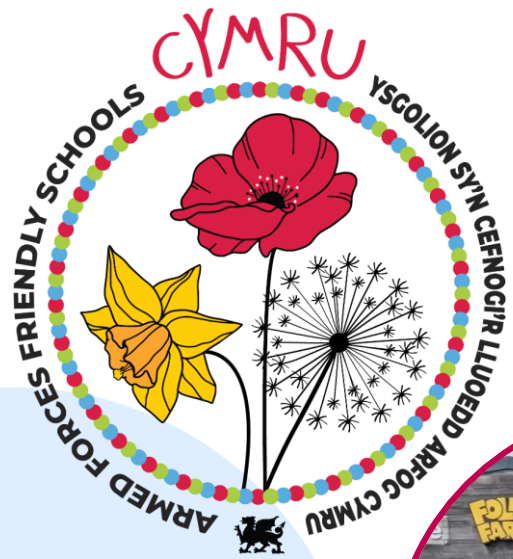


See the next page for images of how schools in Wales have celebrated achieving their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status.



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





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SSCE Cymru e-learning

Last year, SSCE Cymru 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.

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

"There are several parts of this training that will impact my support and practice within my schools."

"The voice clips and case studies were really helpful throughout."

100% of participants found the e-learning beneficial



ARMED FORCES
COVENANT
LLUOEDD ARFOG
CYFAMOD

Data and survey requests...

SSCE Cymru data collection

Previous data held by SSCE Cymru indicates that over 35% of schools in Wales have Service children enrolled, with around half of those having only 1 or 2 Service children.

SSCE Cymru would like to ensure we have a strong understanding of the number and location of Service children in Wales. Therefore, we are requesting that all schools, if they haven't already, complete the digital form [here](#) to provide us with the most accurate record. We kindly ask schools complete this as soon as possible.

To support you with this activity we would recommend your school consider using the templates within [SSCE Cymru's Tool 4](#) to help gather and collate this data.



See further
information here

FINAL
REMINDER!

Service children ALN survey

SSCE Cymru is conducting a survey with schools in Wales to gain a snapshot of the challenges schools may be facing in supporting Service children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN), and to identify examples of good practice.

The survey is estimated to take between 5-15 minutes to complete.

The information provided will be used to inform practice and policy in relation to supporting Service children with ALN.

Survey deadline: 31st March 2025.



Click here to
complete the
survey



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Month of the Military Child Mis y Plentyn Milwrol



April/Ebrill | #MotMCCymru

Ways for schools to get involved...

- Understand
- Engage
- Celebrate



See further
information
here

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Dates for the diary...

SCiP Alliance webinar series



This year, the SCiP Alliance are hosting a series of FREE webinars for schools.

THEME: Principle 6 – Parents are engaged (Survey Tool focus)

Monday 24th March 16:00

Peter Rose from Tiller Consulting will provide an introduction to the Survey Tool, a key feature of the Thriving Lives Toolkit designed to facilitate sending surveys to parents of Service children.



Click here for further information and to register

SCiP Alliance Hub Cymru Development Event



Thursday 10th April 10:30-16:30
CARDIFF

Join us at the SCiP Alliance Hub Cymru Development Event to learn, network, and shape the future of the SCiP Alliance Hub in Wales.

The FREE Hub Cymru Development Event aims to bring together key stakeholders, educators, policymakers, and community leaders to discuss and strategize on how best to support Service children and their families.



Click here for further information and sign up to attend the event

'Purple up' day!!!

Wednesday 30th of April is the day to 'Purple up' for Month of the Military Child in Wales!

- Wear purple
- Create purple artwork and displays
- Take a photo of what you get up to
- Send your photos to SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk
- Post your photo/s on social media (tag @SSCECymru on [X](#) and [Facebook](#)) using the hashtag [#MotMCCymru](#) – with a message to Service children, thanking them for their important role in the Armed Forces community.



Click here to see how others have participated in 'Purple up' day in previous years

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.

MARCH schedule

Mon 3rd

Tue 4th
3pm Funding for supporting
Service children

Wed 5th

Thu 6th
10am AFFS Cymru
3pm SCiP Alliance Thriving
Lives Toolkit

Fri 7th
10am Month of the Military
Child

Mon 10th
3pm Armed Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru

Tue 11th
3.30pm Service children
voice (Primary)

Wed 12th

Thu 13th
10am Funding for
supporting Service children
3pm AFFS Cymru

Fri 14th

Mon 17th

Tue 18th
4pm Armed Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru

Wed 19th
10am Armed Forces
Friendly Schools Cymru

Thu 20th
3.30pm SC voice
(Secondary)

Fri 21st

Mon 24th
3pm Month of the Military
Child

Tue 25th

Wed 26th
10am Armed Forces
Friendly Schools Cymru

Thu 27th

Fri 28th
10am SCiP Alliance Thriving
Lives Toolkit



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

SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions

APRIL schedule

	Tue 1st 10am Month of the Military Child 4pm AFFS Cymru	Wed 2nd 10am AFFS Cymru 3.30pm Service children voice (Primary)	Thu 3rd 10am SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit 3pm Month of the Military Child	Fri 4th 10am Funding for supporting Service children 3pm AFFS Cymru
Mon 7th 3.30pm Service children voice (Secondary)	Tue 8th 10am AFFS Cymru 3pm SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit	Wed 9th	Thu 10th	Fri 11th
Mon 14th	Tue 15th	Wed 16th	Thu 17th	Fri 18th
Mon 21st	Tue 22nd	Wed 23rd	Thu 24th	Fri 25th
Mon 28th 3pm AFFS Cymru	Tue 29th 3pm Funding for supporting Service children	Wed 30th 10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru		

Funding...

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

In 2024/25, schools and local authorities 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 and good practice examples here

**NEXT
(LAST)
DEADLINE:
21st March**

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](#)

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](#)

Service Pupil Support programme 2025/26

The MODs Service Pupil Support (SPS) programme will award grants of between £5,000 to £150,000 towards a standalone project being delivered over a period of up to two years, to supporting Service children along their educational pathway.

The SPS programme is open to schools, Further Education settings and local authorities. Schools are encouraged to work collaboratively and apply in a cluster.



[See further information here](#)

Project themes for 2025/26 are:

- Closing the gap.
- Support for service pupils with ALN.
- Mobility, deployment and separation.
- Low numbers of service pupils.

**DEADLINE:
30th April**