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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



MONTHLY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2024



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Message from the SSCE Cymru team...

“On the Wednesday 13th November, a few of our Service children ambassadors had the opportunity to join the SSCE Cymru team at the [SCiP Alliance Annual Conference 2024: Inspiring Impact](#). This year's event was especially exciting as it was hosted in Wales for the very first time. The day was filled with inspiring talks and workshops, engaging discussions, and a wealth of information aimed at improving support for Service children and young people.

It was wonderful to see so many schools, educators and policy makers coming together to learn more about the challenges faced by Service families and the importance of providing tailored support. We hope that for those who attended, the event sparked new ideas and motivated them to make a real difference in how they support their Service children. It was a day full of energy, hope, and a shared commitment to making an impact.

As the year draws to a close, we also want to take a moment to wish everyone a Nadolig Llawen / Merry Christmas! It's a time for relaxation and family, but we also want to remember the Service children and families who are facing the holidays with a loved one serving away. You are in our thoughts, and we hope that your reunion in the New Year is filled with joy and happiness.

Diolch/ Thank you to everyone who continues to work with us and to all the families who support our brave servicemen and women. Best wishes to you all as we look forward to a hopeful and inspiring year ahead.”



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
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TRUST

Participation Lead Officer

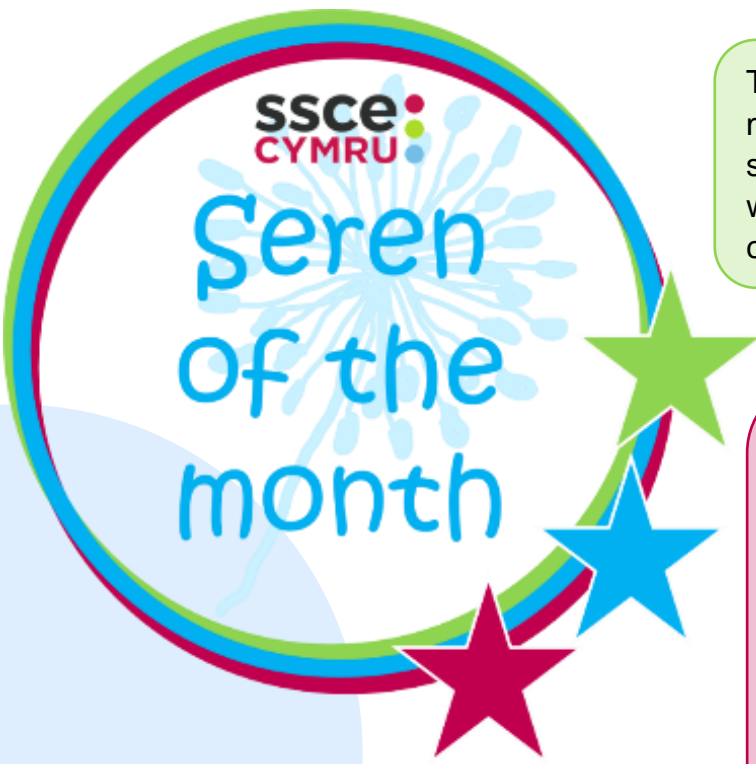


Jo

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



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 – December 2024

The SSCE Cymru team are proud to recognise Riley, Joe, Kieran, Ewan, and Tom as Seren of the Month for their exceptional contributions at the recent SCiP Alliance conference. As Service children ambassadors, they not only embraced the opportunity to share their personal stories but also played a pivotal role in fostering deeper understanding and sparking meaningful discussions about the experiences of Service children and young people across Wales.

Riley, Joe, Kieran, Ewan, and Tom's involvement was truly exceptional, and they represented Service children and young people from across Wales with remarkable pride and strength. Their contribution to this national event was not only inspiring but also invaluable in advancing the understanding and support of Service children. We hope they take pride in how they represented their peers and know that their families and schools must feel incredibly proud of their courage and positive involvement.

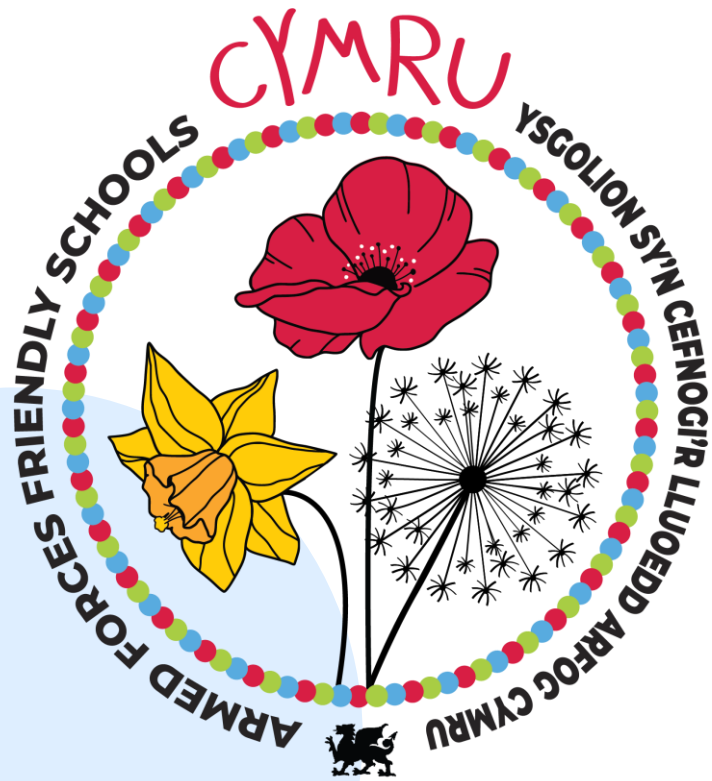
Diolch yn fawr iawn / Thank you very much, Riley, Joe, Kieran, Ewan, and Tom. Your participation has made a lasting difference, and you are all most deserving of this recognition.



**Riley, Joe, Kieran,
Ewan, and Tom**
Service Children Ambassadors



Click here for further information about the SSCE Cymru Seren of the month



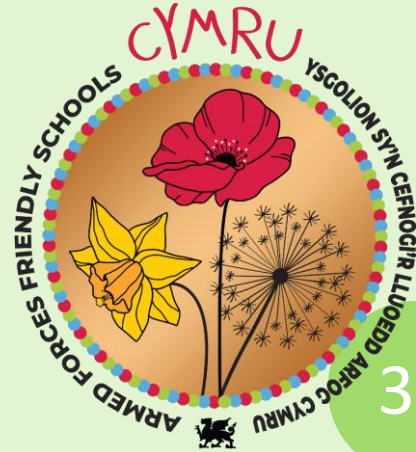
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CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMURU

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, 32 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 32 have achieved Bronze, 7 have achieved Silver and 4 have achieved Gold!!!

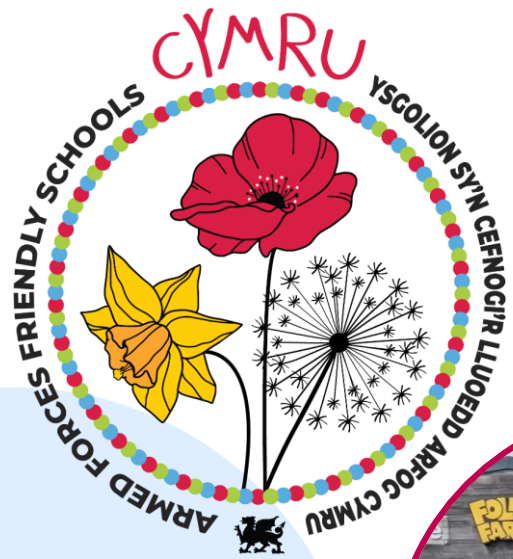


See the next page for images of how schools in Wales have celebrated achieving their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status.



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





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Service children data collection

SSCE Cymru are supporting the local authority to collect *Service children data this year. Therefore, we kindly ask you to complete our online data collection form to confirm the number of *Service children in your school and provide us with the most up to date accurate record of where Service children are across Wales.

Note: Please also let us know if you have no Service children currently enrolled at your school.

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



***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.*



Why we ask you to capture data on Service children

- Identifying Service children allows schools to provide them with appropriate support
- Schools can access funding to support the needs of their Service children
- Comparisons can be made on attainment levels between Service and non-Service children
- Local authorities can prepare to support Service children with their mental health and wellbeing needs
- SSCE Cymru can provide schools with support, resources and training to better understand and support their Service children based on their unique experiences and needs.



Click here to use the templates within SSCE Cymru's Tool 4 helpful to help gather and collate this data



SSCE Cymru e-learning

Earlier this 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



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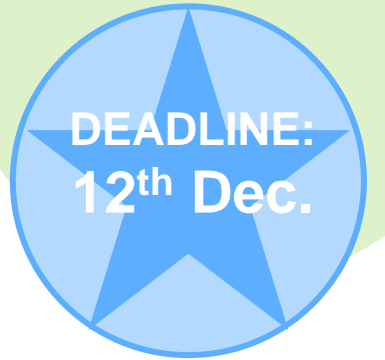
Service children clubs

Does your school run a club for your Service children?

If yes, then we'd love to hear from you! We are conducting surveys with schools that have a Little Troopers Club (Primary) or Forces Life Club (Secondary). We would like to know what impact the club is having on the Service children / young people and your school community and includes questions about what your club currently involves and what plans you have for your club in the future.

We will use the information collected to explore further opportunities to ensure that the voices of Service children continue to be heard and represented in Wales.

Additionally, we would like to introduce the opportunity for older Little Troopers or Forces Life Club members to join [Reading Force Book clubs](#) – to see if they would be interested in starting a book club within their existing club.

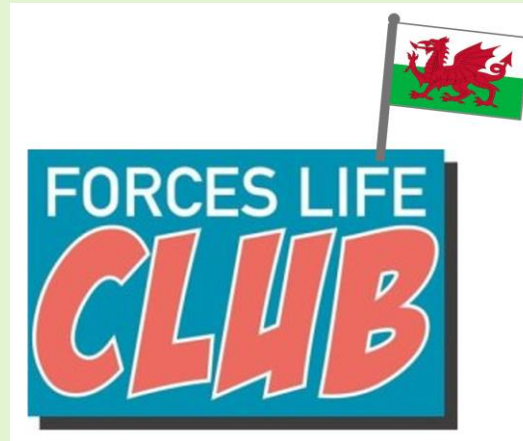


Primary school survey



Click
here to
complete

Secondary school survey



Click
here to
complete

SCiP Alliance conference 2024

The SCiP Alliance annual conference 2024, with a theme of Inspiring Impact, was held in Cardiff on 13th November 2024. The day focussed on the SCiP Alliance's vision to inspire impactful work that supports thriving lives for Service children.

The SSCE Cymru team were delighted to be joined by a few of our Service children ambassadors, who embraced the opportunity to share their personal stories, adding a significant contribution which encouraged deeper understanding and further discussion. They were amazing and certainly made a difference.

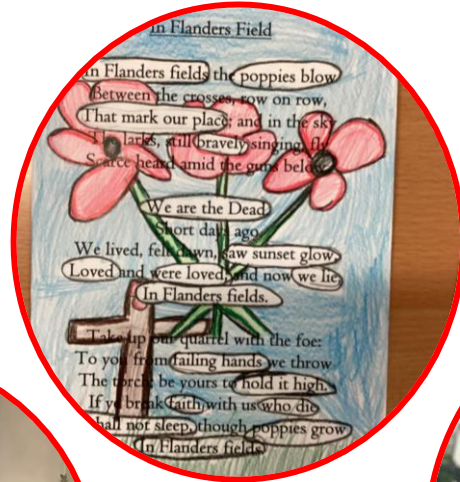
SSCE Cymru delivered one of the workshops, 'Sharing good practice to inspire impact', where we had an opportunity to show some of the new SSCE Cymru Service children stories and school good practice films which will be launched in the new year.

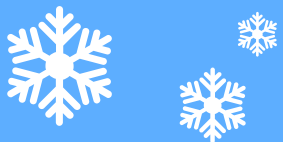
Diolch yn fawr iawn / Thank you very much to everyone that participated in the day!



Remembrance 2024

Please send photos and details of how your school commemorated Remembrance to SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk to be added to our journal





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.

DECEMBER schedule

Mon 2nd

10am LA Action Plan
3pm Data collection

Tue 3rd

10am SCiP Alliance TL TK
2pm Service children voice
(Primary)

Wed 4th

10am Funding for
supporting Service children
3pm AFFS Cymru

Thu 5th

10am Service children voice
(Secondary)

Fri 6th

Mon 9th

10am AFFS Cymru
3pm Funding for supporting
Service children

Tue 10th

Wed 11th

Thu 12th

Fri 13th

Mon 16th

10am AFFS Cymru
2pm Service children voice
(Secondary)

Tue 17th

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

Wed 18th

10am Data collection
2pm SCiP Alliance Thriving
Lives Toolkit

Thu 19th

10am AFFS Cymru
2pm Local Authority Action
Plan

Fri 20th

Mon 23rd

Tue 24th



Wed 25th

Thu 26th

Fri 27th

SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions

JANUARY schedule

Mon 6th

Tue 7th

2pm Local Authority Action Plan

Wed 8th

10am Service children voice (Primary)
3pm Data collection

Thu 9th

2pm Service children voice (Secondary)

Fri 10th

10am SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit

Mon 13th

10am Funding for supporting Service children

Tue 14th

2pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

Wed 15th

10am Local Authority Action Plan

Thu 16th

10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

Fri 17th

10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

Mon 20th

2pm Service children voice (Primary)

Tue 21st

Wed 22nd

Thu 23rd

Fri 24th

10am Data collection

Mon 27th

3pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

Tue 28th

3pm Funding for supporting Service children

Wed 29th

10am SC voice (Secondary)
3pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

Thu 30th

10am AFFS Cymru
2pm SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit

Fri 31st

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:
13th Dec.**

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

NEW

SSCE-WF good practice
examples document.

Available 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