

MONTHLY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2025



Message from the SSCE Cymru team

"The first of this year's SSCE Cymru Armed Forces Festivals took place on 15th October at the Army Reserve Centre in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. The event welcomed 97 Service children and young people from 10 schools across West Wales, who took part in a range of engaging activities, including team-building challenges, song writing, and crafts with a Remembrance theme. It was a fun-filled day and a fantastic opportunity for military-connected children to come together, share their experiences, and build new friendships. Visit the [SSCE Cymru Journal](#) to see photos of Service children enjoying the day.

This November, communities across Wales will come together to reflect on the act of Remembrance. It is a time to honour those who have made sacrifices in pursuit of peace. Remembrance does not glorify war, it respectfully acknowledges the courage and commitment of those who served, and the hope for a peaceful future. If your school community is marking Remembrance in a special way, we'd love to hear about it. Please get in touch if you'd like your story to be featured on our new [Remembrance](#) webpage.

Looking ahead, we'll be delighted to share highlights from this year's [SCiP Alliance Annual Conference 2025: Whole Person, Whole Journey](#), which will be held in Glasgow on the 26th November. SSCE Cymru's Programme Manager, Millie Taylor, will be attending alongside other Wales-based network colleagues. If you're planning to be there, please do say hello!

As always, diolch yn fawr for your continued support."



Millie
Programme
Manager



Jo
Participation
Lead Officer



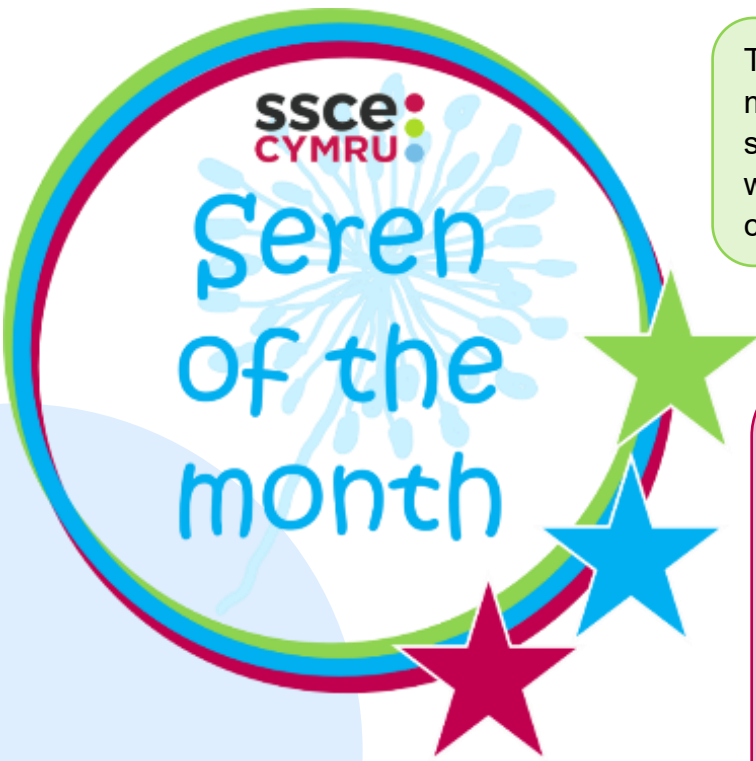
Yasmin
School Liaison
Officer



Cara
School Liaison
Officer



Becca
School Liaison
Officer



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 – November 2025

The SSCE Cymru team would like to extend a heartfelt public thank you to this month's Seren, Julie Stapleton.

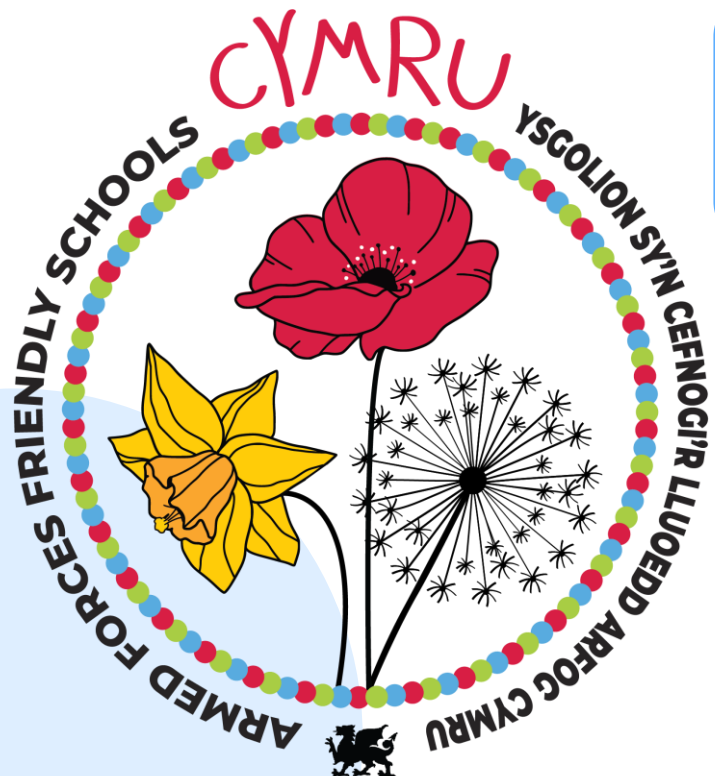
In her role as Teacher Development Officer at Neath Port Talbot Council, Julie has been an outstanding advocate for all Service children and young people across the local authority (LA). Her dedication shines through in her coordination of LA and school staff network meetings, securing funding and working closely with the SSCE Cymru team to ensure schools feel supported in their journey to becoming Armed Forces Friendly Schools. Thanks to Julie's collaborative approach, six schools in Neath Port Talbot have now achieved Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status, an incredible accomplishment for an LA without any main military units or bases. To break it down: three schools have earned Bronze status, one has achieved Silver and two have reached Gold! This is a brilliant example of what can be achieved when schools and local authorities work together with purpose and passion.

Julie, we are truly grateful for your efforts and thoroughly enjoy working alongside you. We also recognise that this work represents just a small part of your wider role, which makes your continued commitment all the more impressive.

Your impact on the lives of Service children in Neath Port Talbot is both meaningful and deeply appreciated. Diolch/Thank you!



Julie Stapleton
Neath Port Talbot Council



ssce
CYMRU

SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU

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:

Bronze: Treffos Independent School & Nursery (Isle of Anglesey)

Silver: Pencoed Primary School (Bridgend)

Silver: Rydal Penrhos School (Conwy)

Gold: Ysgol Cwm Brombil (Neath Port Talbot)

Congratulations to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status.

So far, 43 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 44 have achieved Bronze, 13 have achieved Silver and 7 have achieved Gold!!!



44



13



7

ssce
CYMRU



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

CLILC
WLGA

Service children data collection 2025/26

SSCE Cymru are supporting local authorities 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.

DEADLINE:
31st Jan

***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 submit
your data**



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

Little Troopers bilingual books for schools



These six bilingual books, written from the perspective of a Service child, would be a great addition to your school library for children who have one or more parent serving in the British Armed Forces.

All six books have QR codes where you can hear the Welsh audio being read aloud.

Huge thanks to Emily, a Service child from Ysgol Gynradd Corn Hir (Isle of Anglesey) and her friend Ani, who narrated the Welsh audio for these lovely books.

Contact SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk to request your schools' FREE books



SSCE Cymru snakes and ladders game



The SSCE Cymru team are excited to launch this new resource, as a way of recognising that Service children face both positive and challenging experiences.

The game can be used during Service children voice activities or as a fun CPD resource for staff.

The quotes included on the game are taken from some of the Service children voice activities we have run over the past year.

We enjoyed playing a large floor size version of the snakes and ladders game at our first Armed Forces Festival in West Wales in October.

Contact SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk to request a FREE snakes and ladders game for your school



SSCE Cymru ALN survey

Over 2024/25 SSCE Cymru conducted two surveys about the experiences of supporting Service children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN).

The initial survey was conducted with schools across 2024 and 2025.

In Spring 2025 a second survey was conducted with local authorities.

The aim was to capture a snapshot of the challenges and positives both schools and local authorities may be facing in supporting Service children with ALN, to identify examples of good practice and consider what further support schools and local authorities might need.

"Families often need to restart assessments or referrals under different regional frameworks."

"Emphasising early identification of additional learning needs allows for timely interventions."

"We can always improve what we already do to support our service families."

"The school has allowed me to complete courses to support specific needs of our service children."



[Click here to see the full survey findings](#)

Armed Forces Festivals 2025

This year, the SSCE Cymru team are very excited to invite schools with Service children to attend one of our FREE Armed Forces Festivals!

WEST

DATE: Wed 15th Oct

VENUE: Reserve Centre, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire

SOUTH

DATE: Wed 12th Nov

VENUE: Reserve Centre, Llandaff, Cardiff

NORTH WEST

DATE: Wed 19th Nov

VENUE: RAF Valley, Isle of Anglesey

NORTH EAST

DATE: Thu 20th Nov

VENUE: Army Reserves Centre, Queensferry, Flintshire

EAST

DATE: Mon 1st Dec

VENUE: Infantry Battle School, Brecon, Powys



Remembrance 2025

11th November 2025

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

Poppy Appeal



The Poppy Appeal is the Royal British Legion's (RBL) biggest fundraising campaign held every year in November, during the period of Remembrance.

Each year thousands of amazing volunteers across the country help raise millions of pounds during the Poppy Appeal to support the Armed Forces community.

RBL would like your support as a Poppy Appeal Organiser. As an individual, or a representative of a group, club, or business you can coordinate the Poppy Appeal within your local area.

Or as a Poppy Appeal Collector, you can make a difference by raising vital funds to help support the Armed Forces community and their families by collecting donations from the public during the two weeks of the Poppy Appeal at the end of October at locations all around the UK.

#PoppyAppeal

Remembrance 2025

Events

Remembrance Sunday

9th November

Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

Armistice Day

11th November

The Armistice, an agreement to end the fighting of the First World War as a prelude to peace negotiations, began at 11am on 11 November 1918.

We mark Armistice Day around the UK with a 2-minute silence at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month.

Army RET Remembrance Live Assembly

09:00-09:30 Tuesday 11th November

The Army Regional Engagement Team (RET) from Wales will be delivering a live assembly of Awareness and Remembrance for all schools.

The event is open to all year groups and available in English and Welsh.

RBL Remembrance Live Assembly

10:25-11:05 Tuesday 11th November

The Royal British Legion will host an online assembly for ages 9 to 14 (years 5-9). This event will combine art, music, poetry, interviews and more to create a unique, interactive experience helping students understand who, why and how we remember.

Resources

Teaching Remembrance resources

Produced by the Royal British Legion, all resources are:

- Available for all key stages and Youth Groups
- Made up of lesson plans, bitesize activities and assemblies to support teachers and parents
- Free and linked to National Curriculum
- Differentiated to provide both support and challenge
- Available in Welsh.

Poppy Scotland

Poppy Scotland provide a range of FREE learning resources highlighting the importance of remembrance, veterans and the poppy.

BBC

The BBC have free teaching resources for Primary and Secondary aged pupils. CBeebies also have an alternative video for the 2-minute silence for young children.

Funding...

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

In 2025/26, 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
DEADLINES:**
7th Nov
19th Dec
30th Jan

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

These documents 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. The checklist includes suggested actions to help when preparing and completing a funding application. The ideas and suggestions document includes examples of activities that applicants could incorporate as part of funded projects to support Service children.

Available
here

Funding drop-in sessions

These informal drop-in sessions are aimed at supporting schools and local authorities in Wales with accessing funding to support Service children in education.

Upcoming drop-in sessions:

Tuesday 4th November 15:30-16:30
Tuesday 2nd December 15:30-16:30
Thursday 11th December 09:00-10:00



See further
information
here