



A SERVICE PUPIL PROMISE FROM Oxfordshire County Council



Proudly
supporting
those
who serve



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

You shared your experiences of life as a young person in a forces family at Oxfordshire's Service Pupils' conference. You told about what is brilliant and how proud you are; you also shared that some things can be hard and can worry you.



You also told us what you think your schools do really well and what you wish they did to support you.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO LISTENING TO YOU BECAUSE:

- Listening recognises how important your voice is
- Listening helps us understand better; rather than just think we know
- Listening can help us make sure that we remember you in all the decisions we make
- Listening helps us change things for the better.



YOU TOLD US THINGS THAT CAN BE DIFFICULT, INCLUDING:

- Being worried when one of your parents is deployed, not knowing what's happening to them
- Having lots of feelings that you don't really know how to deal with
- Trying to concentrate on homework when you're worried about your mum or dad
- Moving schools, moving house and sometimes moving to a different country
- Having to leave your friends and join a new school when your family move and having to make new friends when you get there
- Feeling that you have to look after the family when your dad or mum is away.



YOU TOLD US YOU WOULD LIKE HEADTEACHERS TO:

- Make sure every service child is heard
- Make sure every service child has someone that they can talk to about anything
- Make sure that moving to a new school isn't so hard. Have a way that a service child can tell their new teachers about themselves
- Give service children who join the school a buddy to help them learn about the school, how to find places and to be a friend for them
- Provide a space where service children can go if they need to think and work through their feelings
- Set up a club where service children can do activities together and talk about their feelings with other children so that they don't feel alone
- Create a service pupils' council that meets every half-term and who can talk with the headteacher
- Have a teacher who is a service pupils champion
- Find ways to share what service life is like with non-service pupils and staff (something like a teddy bear and diary to take home)
- Have times when we can celebrate being a service pupil, like camo day or "a day in the life".



We listened to everything you told us and thought about how we can make sure our service pupils get the very best. So, this is Oxfordshire County Council's promise to you...



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COUNTY COUNCIL**

Oxfordshire County Council's SERVICE PUPIL PROMISE

WE PROMISE THAT WE WILL WORK WITH HEADTEACHERS, TEACHERS AND GOVERNORS TO:

- Make sure that you are at the front of their mind when decisions are made about teaching and organisation of the school
- Make sure that service pupils are represented on the school council
- Make sure that every school with children from a forces family has a Service Pupils' Champion
- Share things that really work so that these can help other schools
- Make sure that moving to a new school is less stressful, and your new teachers know the important things about you
- Make sure that you get the support that's right for you - that might be support for your emotions and confidence or for learning that you find difficult.

WE PROMISE THAT WE WILL WORK WITH VOLUNTEERS FROM SERVICE FAMILIES AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO:

- Provide a space in school in which pupils can meet during breaktimes
- Develop a programme of activities to help service families and their civilian neighbours to get together
- Run deployment drop-in sessions and after school clubs
- Establish a network of family to family support and volunteers to deliver Deployment Drop In sessions and community activities
- Provide a place for service families to meet inside school.

WE PROMISE THAT WE WILL MAKE SURE THERE ARE WAYS FOR ADULTS IN SCHOOL TO LEARN ABOUT DOING THE BEST FOR SERVICE PUPILS:

- Arrange training to help teachers understand what it's like to be a service pupil and how they can support you
- Arrange training for teachers so that they can be a Service Pupils' Champion
- Arrange a conference every year where service pupils can have a voice and adults can listen (we'll make sure there are lots of fun activities)
- Make sure that lots of the other training teachers go to includes thinking about service pupils.

THIS PROMISE IS FOR
YOU BECAUSE WE WANT
YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU
ARE HEARD



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THIS IS A PICTURE OF ME



My name is

I AM A SERVICE PUPIL AND I HAVE A VOICE IN MY SCHOOL