

Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund (2025/26)

OVERVIEW AND GUIDANCE

Summary

The *Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund* (SSCE-WF) is funded by the Welsh Government and administered by [SSCE Cymru](#), which is hosted by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA).

Schools and local authorities in Wales can apply for £1,000 or £3,000 to deliver a project in the 2025/26 academic year that is aimed at supporting Service children.

The scheme is open for applications throughout the year (up to 13th March 2026), which will enable projects to be developed in response to need, and at key transition points. Applications for £1,000 may be accepted after 13th March 2026, if funding remains available.

Applicants can apply for funding once per review period (see timeline section below).

NOTE: all application costs are fixed (£1,000 or £3,000). Please do not apply for more or less than these set amounts.

Eligibility

£1,000 funding programme is open to:

1. All local authorities in Wales
2. Local authority maintained schools in Wales that have at least one *Service child enrolled.

£3,000 funding programme is open to:

1. All local authorities in Wales
2. Local authority maintained schools in Wales that have at least one *Service child enrolled and have achieved their [Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru](#) Bronze status.

***Welsh Government 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.

Purpose and priorities

All projects undertaken as part of this funding programme must be completed within the 2025/26 academic year. Applications will not be considered for projects where the start date or end date are after 31st August 2026.

Priorities

Applicants are encouraged to consider:

- The needs of their Service children
- Local authority and/or school cluster collaboration
- How good practice can be used and shared
- Sustainability and embedding good practice
- Ways to monitor and measure the impact
- How the project links to [Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru](#).

Piloting projects through this funding programme will enable schools and local authorities to provide evidence on the impact of activities, which could support bids for funding from other [relevant funding streams](#).

Links to the curriculum

Each item within the project funding applications will link to one of the six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs) in the curriculum for Wales:

- Expressive Arts: dance, drama, film and digital media, music and visual arts
- Health and Well-being: physical health and development, mental health, and emotional and social wellbeing
- Humanities: history, geography, religious education, business studies and social studies
- Languages, Literacy and Communication: Welsh, English, international languages and literature (international languages may include modern languages, classical languages, community languages such as Polish or Punjabi, and British Sign Language)
- Mathematics and Numeracy: conceptual understanding, communication using symbols, fluency, logical reasoning and strategic competence
- Science and Technology: design and technology, engineering, computer science, biology, chemistry and physics.

Funding ideas and support

To ensure the school / local authority have a good understanding of the experiences and needs of Service children in education in Wales, it is **recommended** that applicants:

1. Attend relevant [SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions](#)
2. Complete the SSCE Cymru e-learning.

Projects could include:

- Coordinated projects
- Staffing time
- Courses/training
- Resources
- Outsourced projects/packages.

Applicants should use the [SSCE Cymru funding advice](#) document for support with preparing and submitting an application for funding. See **Annex 1** of the funding advice document for further information on funding/project ideas.

Timeline

The funding can be applied for throughout the academic year and will be reviewed regularly, as indicated in the table below.

Applications submitted will be reviewed within 14 days of the deadlines indicated below.

Review period:	Applications received by:	Will be informed of the outcome by:	Funding options available
1	26 th September 2025	10 th October 2025	£1,000 projects and £3,000 projects
2	7 th November 2025	21 st November 2025	£1,000 projects and £3,000 projects
3	19 th December 2025	2 nd January 2026	£1,000 projects and £3,000 projects
4	30 th January 2026	13 th February 2026	£1,000 projects and £3,000 projects
5	13 th March 2026	27 th March 2026	£1,000 projects and £3,000 projects
6	TBC*	TBC*	£1,000 projects only

**An additional application round may be opened if funding remains available.*

Application review process

Applications will be reviewed throughout the year by the SSCE Cymru team using a scoring matrix.

When reviewing the applications, the SSCE Cymru team will consider:

Question	Guidance notes
1. Has the school / local authority engaged with SSCE Cymru prior to submitting the application?	Recommended (not essential).
2. Has the school / local authority completed the SSCE Cymru e-learning training?	Recommended (not essential).
3. Has the school achieved their Bronze AFFS Cymru status?	Not applicable to local authority applications. Essential criteria for £3,000 projects only.
4. Do the project objectives align with the needs of the Service children?	The application should clearly indicate how the needs of the Service children were identified in the school/s / local authority and the objectives should be aligned to meeting those needs.
5. Are the objectives and project plans clear and realistic?	The application should have a clear objective/outcome that will benefit Service children. It may also benefit the wider school community and/or Service families.

6.	Does the application demonstrate value for money?	The application should include a clear breakdown of all the costs associated with the project and demonstrate value for money.
7.	Are the plans to measure the impact clear and realistic?	The application should be specific in how it plans to monitor and measure the impact of the project.
8.	Does the project align with the SSCE Cymru mission?	The application should be targeted at supporting Service children in education, utilising the SSCE Cymru evidence and resources to inform plans and activities.

Feedback

Unsuccessful applicants can request feedback from SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk and are welcome to resubmit a new application ready for the next review period.

Reporting process

For successful applicants, using a template provided, a short impact statement (£1,000 projects – 200-300 words / £3,000 projects – 400-500 words), with supporting images (if appropriate), is required to be completed within three months of the project end date.

An invoice for the project total (£1,000 / £3,000) should be sent to the WLGA along with the impact report. Invoices will be paid on project completion.

Information, data and evidence arising from the projects will help to inform SSCE Cymru activity priorities, and the Welsh Government's policies regarding Service children.

Terms and Conditions

On submission of the online form, applicants will be asked to confirm the following:

- I/we have read and understand the details outlined in the 'SSCE-WF (2025-26) - guidance and overview' document.
- If successful I/we will spend the funding as indicated in this funding application.
- I/we understand that any funding secured through the SSCE-WF programme is a one-off funding allocation and not seen as a commitment for future funding from SSCE Cymru / the WLGA or Welsh Government.
- If successful I/we agree to complete the impact report as required and within the deadlines set by SSCE Cymru.
- If successful I/we agree for details of this project to be shared, when appropriate, as good practice.