

MONTHLY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2025



Message from the SSCE Cymru team

"What a busy and exciting month September has been! We've loved reconnecting with familiar schools and introducing ourselves to many new contacts across Wales. It has been wonderful to have so much positive engagement, and long may this continue throughout the academic year.

Our team has been hard at work planning the upcoming [Armed Forces Festivals](#), and we hope you've received your invitation to join us. SSCE Cymru would be delighted to welcome you to one of these FREE events! They have been incredibly popular in the past, with many Armed Forces connected young people asking for more – so please book your school places early to avoid disappointment.

Thank you for your continued support of Service children in education across Wales. We look forward to seeing you at a festival near you!

If you have any questions or need further information, please get in touch."



Millie
Programme
Manager



Jo
Participation
Lead Officer



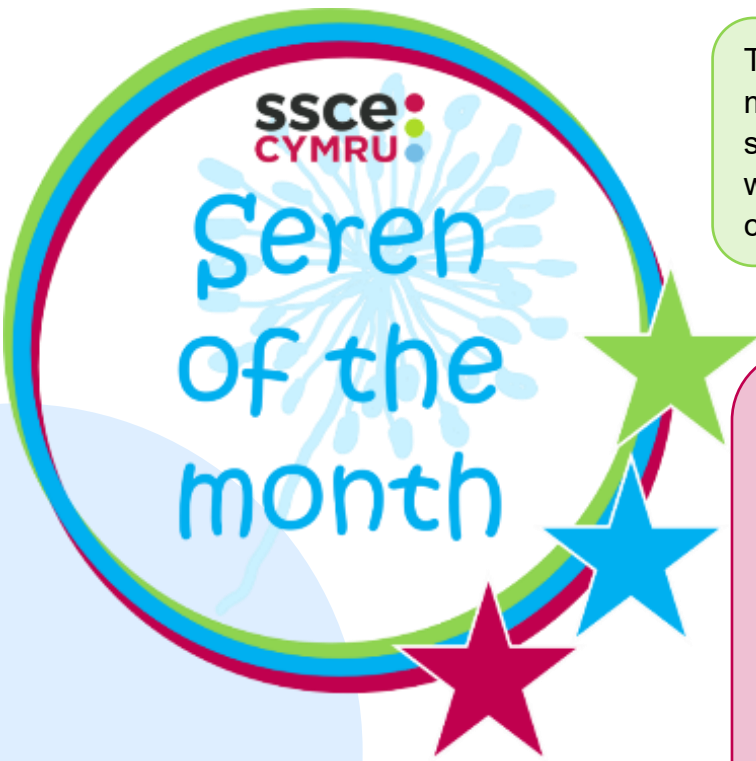
Yasmin
School Liaison
Officer



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 – October 2025

We're thrilled to celebrate Mrs Sue Marles, Headteacher at Raglan CIW VC Primary School, as our SSCE Cymru Seren of the Month! Sue recently led an inspiring project that placed the voices and experiences of Service children at the heart of school life. What began as a response to pupils feeling their unique backgrounds were often overlooked became a powerful example of how storytelling, creativity, and collaboration can drive real inclusion. SSCE pupils created personal story maps, sharing their journeys, challenges, triumphs in small supportive groups. These reflections were transformed into a moving short film in partnership with Big Foot Education, featuring Service children and families not only from Raglan, but also from Overmonnow, Usk CIW, Trellech and Kymin View Primary schools. The film blended heartfelt stories with informative insights, raising awareness of Armed Forces families and celebrating the resilience of these remarkable young people. Supported by Caroline Hammond, who co-ordinates the school's club, Sue's leadership reflects a deep commitment to recognising every child as a unique individual. Her work exemplifies the belief that learning flourishes through strong school-home partnerships and by empowering children to take ownership of their learning journey. A heartfelt thank you to Sue and the entire Raglan CIW VC Primary School community for continuing to be a shining example of what an Armed Forces Friendly School looks like. Your ongoing collaboration and commitment to showcasing good practice make a real difference in the lives of Service children across Wales.



Sue Marles
Raglan VC Primary School



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, 43 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 43 have achieved Bronze, 11 have achieved Silver and 6 have achieved Gold!!!



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



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: 203 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



Upcoming events...



Whole Person, Whole Journey

SCiP Alliance Conference 2025

Join us for our annual conference for the community supporting thriving lives for Service children.



26 November
Wednesday



Glasgow
Voco Grand Central
99 Gordon St, G1 3SF



Tickets
scipalliance.org



Click here for further information about all upcoming events

Remembrance 2025

11th November 2025

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



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Click here to see the **NEW** Remembrance page on the SSCE Cymru website

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:

Monday 13th October 15:30-16:30

Tuesday 4th November 15:30-16:30



See further
information
here