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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



MONTHLY BULLETIN

JULY 2026



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Message from the SSCE Cymru team

“As another academic year draws to a close, the SSCE Cymru team would like to thank our network members, schools and local authorities for their continued commitment to supporting Service children and young people across Wales.

It has been wonderful to see so many celebrations for Month of the Military Child, Armed Forces Day and pupil voice activities, helping Service children feel recognised, heard and valued. Thank you for sharing your photos, stories and good practice with us throughout the year.

We know the summer can also bring change for many Service families preparing for relocation. Please continue to make use of SSCE Cymru resources and e-learning to better understand and support their experiences. Wishing you all a safe and restful summer, we look forward to reconnecting in September.”



Millie
Programme
Manager



Jo
Participation
Lead Officer



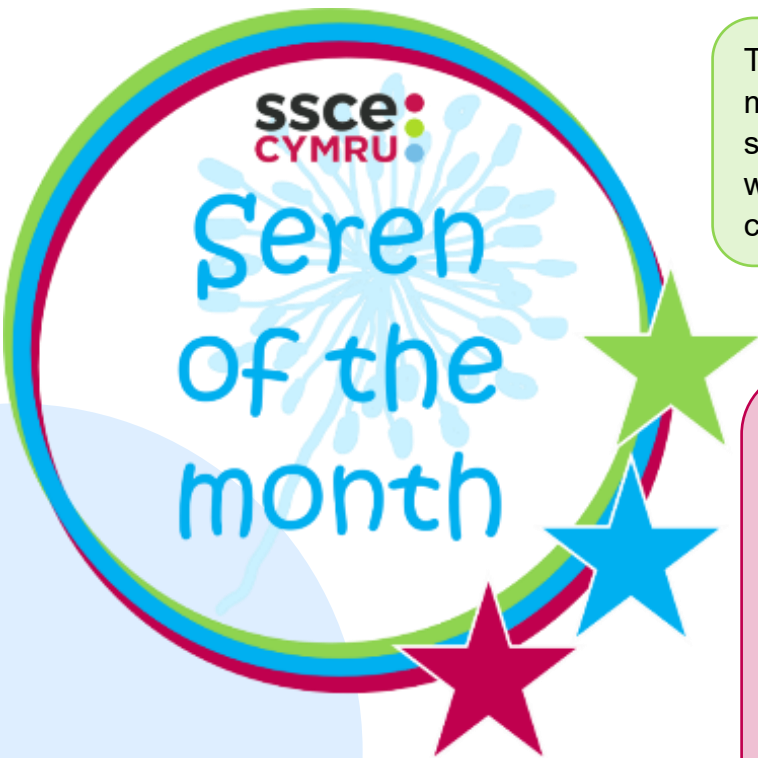
Yasmin
School Liaison
Officer



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 – July 2026

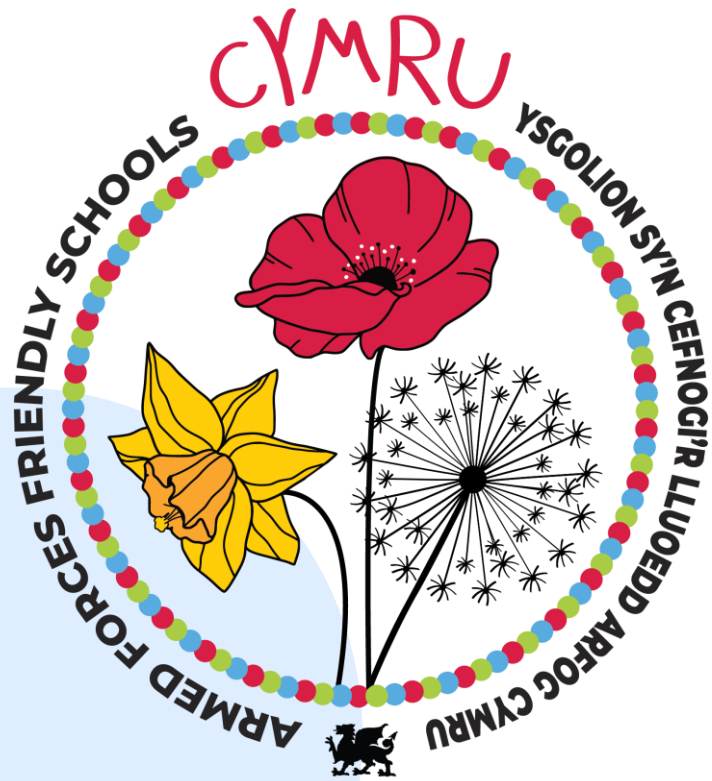
We're proud to celebrate Claire Pugh, Headteacher at Priory C.i.W Primary School, as our SSCE Cymru Seren of the Month. Claire's dedication to Service children is truly inspiring, ensuring their voices, stories and experiences are not only heard, but valued at the heart of school life.

Supported by Liz Davies and Amanda Hyatt, Claire has created powerful opportunities for pupils to feel seen, connected and proud. From celebrating Month of the Military Child and welcoming the Army Engagement Team into school to supporting three Armed Forces connected learners to represent Priory during a Senedd visit last November, her leadership helps children recognise the strength and value of their own experiences.

A heartfelt thank you to Claire and the whole Priory C.i.W Primary School community for being such a shining example of an Armed Forces Friendly School. Your compassion, commitment and willingness to share good practice are helping to inspire lasting change for Service children in Brecon and across Wales. We look forward to continuing working with you in the next academic year.



Claire Pugh
Priory C.i.W School



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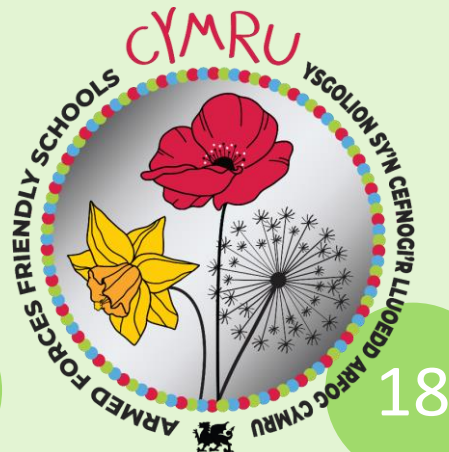
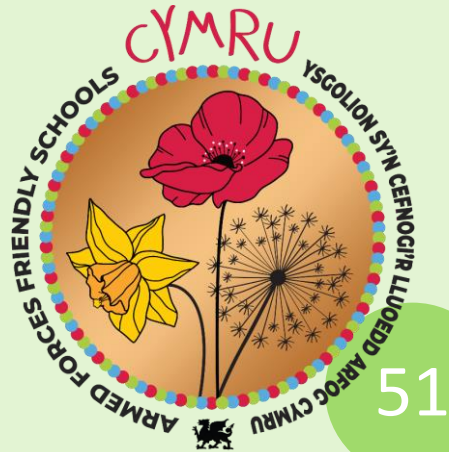
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SSCE Cymru's Armed Forces Friendly Schools (AFFS) Cymru initiative was launched in 2022. Schools in Wales complete a series of activities and actions that are linked to the SSCE Cymru School Checklist, including some compulsory elements, in order to 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:
Silver: Dwr Y Felin Comprehensive School (Neath Port Talbot)

Congratulations to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. So far, 51 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 51 have achieved Bronze, 18 have achieved Silver and 9 have achieved Gold!!!



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

SSCE Cymru Journal

The SSCE Cymru journal provides an overview of the activities and events that the SSCE Cymru team and network members have been involved with. The following are some of the recent additions to the journal.

SSCE Cymru at the National Education Show



**Haverfordwest High VC School:
Bronze Winner of the National Teaching Awards
Service children sleep out**



**Help for Heroes fundraising in
schools across Wales**



**Forces Fitness health and wellbeing
programme in 8 schools in Wales**



**Swansea Service Children's
Forces Festival**



SSCE Cymru e-learning

In April 2024, SSCE Cymru launched our highly anticipated 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

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 Armed Forces Festivals held across Wales at the end of 2025.

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



Service children's songs

During [Month of the Military Child](#), SSCE Cymru launched five songs, written by Service children across Wales in collaboration with songwriter practitioner, Otto Aday, from [Never Such Innocence](#).

The songs, which were created during the SSCE Cymru Armed Forces Festivals, shine a light on their thoughts, feelings and lived experiences of Service life. These powerful pieces capture pride, resilience, connection and the realities of growing up in a Service family in their own voices 🎵



SSCE Cymru resources

Supporting children in times of conflict

SSCE Cymru has a webpage dedicated to providing resources relevant to supporting children and young people during times of conflict.

Although some of the resources refer to a specific conflict, many of the resource can be applied to other conflicts. Times of conflict and crisis affect many families, Service and civilian, and a school community plays a vital part in ensuring our families feel safe and supported during a potentially challenging time.

Some of the resources included on the webpage include:

- [SSCE Cymru: Recommended resources Padlet](#)
- [UNICEF: How to talk to your children about conflict and war](#)
- [Childline: Worries about the world](#)
- [Save the Children: How to talk to children about war](#)
- [Barnardos: Talking to children about war](#)
- [The British Psychological Society: Supporting children to manage anxiety over war, conflict and crises](#)
- [Place2Be: Talking to children and young people about war and conflict](#)

Funding


Welsh Government funding

In 2026/27, the Welsh Government Education Directorate are providing funding for the full SSCE Cymru team (Programme Manager, School Liaison Officers and Participation Lead Officer). Funding will continue to be available to schools and local authorities in Wales through the Case Management support programme and a small grant scheme. Full details to be confirmed in September 2026.



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:

- Friday 3rd July 09:00-10:00
- Monday 13th July 15:30-16:30

 [See further information here](#)


Funding

Service Pupil Support programme 2027

The MODs Service Pupil Support (SPS) programme will award grants between £5,000 to £150,000 towards a standalone project being delivered over a period of up to two years, to supporting Service children along their educational pathway.

The SPS programme is open to schools, Further Education settings and local authorities.

NOTE: Schools are encouraged to work collaboratively and apply in a cluster.

 [See further information here](#)

Project themes for 2027 are:

- Closing the gap.
- Support for service pupils with ALN.
- Mobility, deployment and separation.
- Low numbers of service pupils.

DEADLINE:
30th
September