

MONTHLY BULLETIN

MAY 2025



Message from the SSCE Cymru team

"We certainly didn't let a two-week Easter break stand in the way of celebrating the Month of the Military Child across Wales! Throughout April, schools, local authorities, and other SSCE Cymru Network members came together to honour Service children, taking the time to recognise their unique lifestyle and express our heartfelt thanks for their sacrifices.

The Month of the Military Child celebrations featured a wide array of activities designed to engage and inspire, including special assemblies, creative dandelion artwork, thought-provoking creative writing sessions, and Armed Forces-themed physical activities. And of course, we all joined in on 'Purple Up' day on Wednesday 30th April, showing our support and solidarity. Please send photos of your school celebrating [#MotMCCymru](#) to SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk, which we look forward to sharing on the SSCE Cymru website.

As always, if you have any questions or need advice about supporting Service children in education here in Wales, don't hesitate to get in touch with us at SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk. We're here to help!"



Millie
Programme
Manager



Jo
Participation
Lead Officer



Yasmin
School Liaison
Officer



Cara
School Liaison
Officer



Becca
School Liaison
Officer

Senior School Liaison Officer

"After some precious time spent on maternity leave with my two little ones, I'm excited to be back with the team! I'm looking forward to reconnecting with the schools and local authorities across Wales to support them to continue their work supporting Service children."

Yasmin, Yasmin.Todd@pembrokeshire.gov.uk



WELCOME
BACK
YAZZ!!!

We all hope you had a lovely time with beautiful baby loan while you were on maternity leave! Welcome back 😊



Millie
Programme
Manager



Jo
Participation
Lead Officer



Cara
School Liaison
Officer



Becca
School Liaison
Officer

SSCE Cymru team

Programme Manager



Millie

- Coordinates and delivers SSCE Cymru activities aligned to the SSCE Cymru mission.
- Ensures Service children's experiences are understood and responded to in Wales.
- Represents Wales to share good practice across the UK.

School Liaison Officers



Yasmin



Cara



Becca

- Work with schools and local authorities to identify Service children and maintain a database of school contacts.
- Promote the SSCE Cymru e-learning package.
- Work with education settings to embed support for Service children:
 - Utilise SSCE Cymru resources (School Toolkit and Tools, Funding guidance)
 - Achieve their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status
 - Celebrate Month of the Military Child
 - Access funding to support Service children and families.
- Identify and promote good practice in schools.

SLOs are funded by:  **ARMED FORCES
EDUCATION
TRUST**

Participation Lead Officer

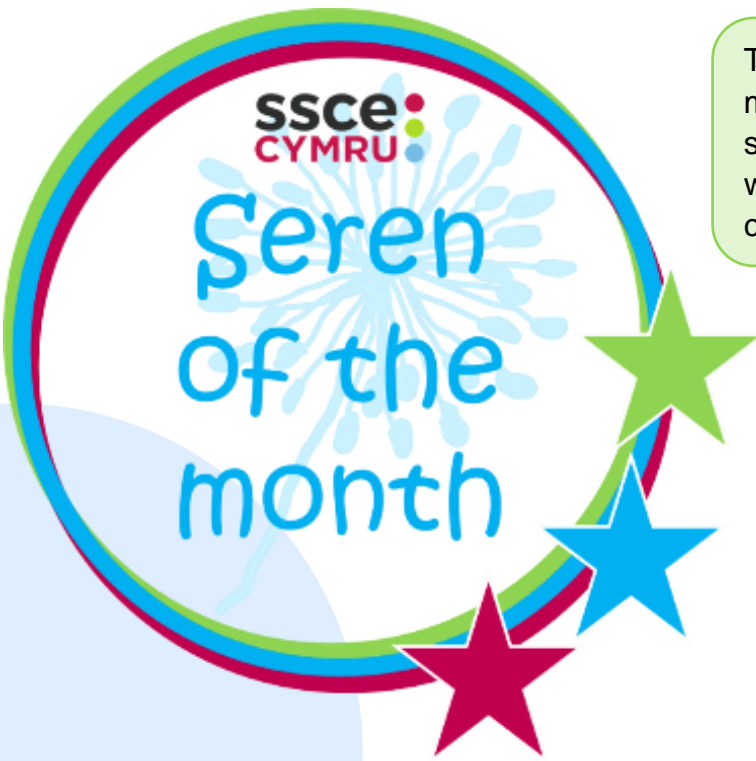


Jo

Works with schools to:

- Listen to Service children
- Set up Service children clubs
- Facilitate opportunities for Service children to come together to share their experiences
- Celebrate Service children's experiences
- Share the voices of Service children.

Contact:
SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk



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 – May 2025

Emma Holding is our Seren of the Month, and this recognition is truly well-deserved! Through Emma's hard work, she has played an instrumental role in raising awareness of the SSCE Cymru programme and the support we offer to schools with Service children / young people. A fantastic example of this is featured in the SSCE Cymru journal, highlighting the Neath Port Talbot Service Children Christmas Tree display at the Margam Park Christmas Tree Exhibition - amazing!

Emma's ongoing efforts across Neath Port Talbot are making a real difference in the lives of many. From her time as a valued member of the educational team at Baglan Primary School, to her current role within the Neath Port Talbot Community Focus Team, she has consistently gone above and beyond, making a positive and inspiring impact.

You are a star, Emma! Thank you for all your valuable contributions. We love working with you and feel lucky to have you as part of our network.



Emma Holding
Baglan Education and
Training Centre



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:

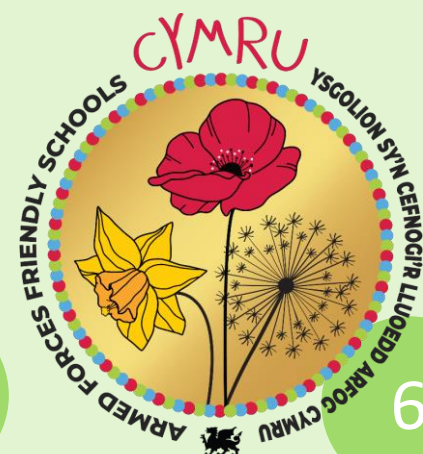
Bronze: Glan Llyn Primary School (Newport)

Bronze: Pencoed Comprehensive School (Bridgend)

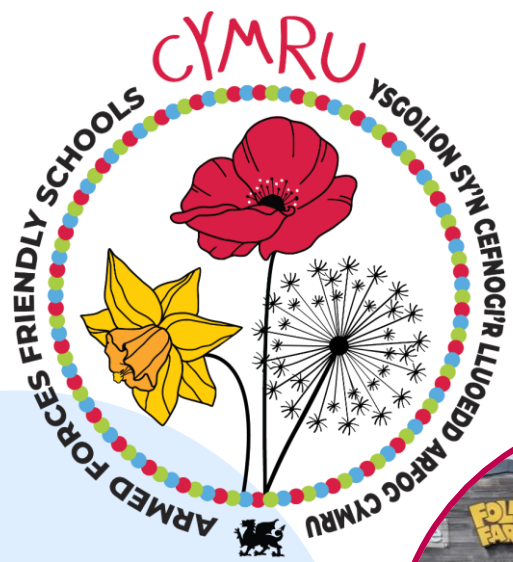
Gold: Ysgol Bae Baglan (Neath Port Talbot)

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

So far, 33 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 36 have achieved Bronze, 10 have achieved Silver and 6 have achieved Gold!!!



See the next page for images of how schools in Wales have celebrated achieving their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status.



SSCE Cymru resources

Updated website and Tools

The SSCE Cymru team have been busy conducting a full review and update of our website and school Tools.

Many thanks to the schools that supported us with this activity.

Tools now available on the new SSCE Cymru website:

1. CHECKLIST: School actions and activities
2. TEMPLATE: Armed Forces Covenant school agreement
3. TEMPLATE: Support for Service children
4. TEMPLATES: Data collection
5. CHECKLISTS: Transition in or out of school
6. TEMPLATES: School welcome packs
7. TEMPLATE: Service children school transfer information
8. TEMPLATE: Getting to know Service children
9. TEMPLATES: Service children journal
10. GUIDANCE: Recommended resources SSCE Cymru Padlet
11. TEMPLATE: Service children experience presentation
12. GUIDANCE: Promoting school support for Service children
13. GUIDANCE/TEMPLATE: Service children pupil voice


 [Click here to access the new Tools](#)


New films

The SSCE Cymru team are excited to launch a series of NEW Service children stories and school good practice films!!!

Many thanks to the following schools and their Service children for being part of this very important project and sharing their stories.

- Baglan Primary School (Neath Port Talbot)
- Haverfordwest High VC School (Pembrokeshire)
- Mount Street Infant & Junior School's (Powys)
- Pencoed Comprehensive School (Bridgend)
- Prendergast Community Primary School (Pembrokeshire)
- Ysgol Glan Clwyd (Denbighshire)
- Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn (Conwy)

 [Click here to see new Service children stories](#)

 [Click here to see new school good practice films](#)

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



Resources and survey request

SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit Case Studies

The [SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit](#), a vital resource for schools supporting children and young people from Armed Forces families, has been significantly enhanced with the addition of new case studies. Thanks to funding from the Naval Children's Charity, this expansion provides schools with a more rigorous and evidence-based approach to self-assessment, offering valuable insights into best practices from diverse educational settings across the UK.

Schools in Wales who were involved in the Case Study project include:

- Baglan Primary School (Neath Port Talbot)
- Cwmclydach Primary School (Rhonda Cynon Taf)
- Haverfordwest High School (Pembrokeshire)
- Mount Street Junior School (Powys)
- Prendergast CP School (Pembrokeshire)



[Click here for further information](#)

'Living in Our Shoes' Revisited – Schools Survey

'Living in Our Shoes: Understanding the needs of UK Armed Forces Families' was published by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in 2020. It was the first comprehensive report to highlight the challenges faced by military families as a result of the expectations placed on Serving personnel in the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force to put 'duty' first. The report contained 110 recommendations, primarily to government, 31 of which referred to the needs of children with a parent/carer serving in the Armed Forces.

A five-year review is now being carried out and researchers would like to hear the views of teachers and support staff in schools which engaged with us previously, and others with a significant number of service children on their register.

Survey deadline: 12th May 2025.



[Click here to complete the survey](#)

DEADLINE:
12th May

Upcoming events



VE DAY
80TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8 MAY 2025

On 8th May 2025, we mark the historic 80th anniversary of VE Day, with the people, families and communities of our great nation coming together to unite and celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe that so many millions paid the ultimate sacrifice to achieve it.

#VEHAPPY



[Click here for further information and resources](#)

VE Day Virtual Schools LIVE Assembly

DATE: 8th May 2025
TIME: 08:45-09:15

The Army Regional Engagement Team from Wales will be delivering a virtual live assembly via Microsoft Teams.



ARMED FORCES DAY

Armed Forces Day is a chance to show your support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to Service families, veterans and cadets.

#SALUTEOURFORCES



[Click here for further information about how to get involved](#)

National Armed Forces Day in Wales 2025

DATE: Saturday 28th June 2025
VENUE: Caldicot Castle and Country Park, Monmouthshire

This year, Monmouthshire will be hosting Wales' National Armed Forces Day! It is free to attend and aims to bring the public together in support of the Armed Forces community.

SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions

Every month, SSCE Cymru host a series of informal drop-in sessions focusing on specific themes. Come along to any of the sessions that interest you, where members of the SSCE Cymru team will share relevant information, promote resources, coordinate discussions, answer your questions and create opportunities for collaboration.

MAY schedule

Mon 5th

Tue 6th
3pm Armed Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru

Wed 7th
10am SCiP Alliance Thriving
Lives Toolkit
3.30pm SC voice (Primary)

Thu 1st
10am Armed Forces
Friendly Schools Cymru

Fri 2nd

Thu 8th
10am Funding for
supporting Service children
3pm AFFS Cymru

Fri 9th

Mon 12th

Tue 13th
4pm Armed Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru

Wed 14th
10am Armed Forces
Friendly Schools Cymru

Thu 15th
3.30pm Service children
voice (Secondary)

Fri 16th

Mon 19th

Tue 20th

Wed 21st
10am Armed Forces
Friendly Schools Cymru

Thu 22nd
3pm SCiP Alliance Thriving
Lives Toolkit

Fri 23rd

Mon 26th

Tue 27th

Wed 28th

Thu 29th

Fri 30th

SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions

JUNE schedule

Mon 2nd

Tue 3rd
3pm Armed Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru

Wed 4th
10am Armed Forces
Friendly Schools Cymru

Thu 5th
3.30pm Service children
voice (Primary)

Fri 6th

Mon 9th
4pm Armed Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru

Tue 10th

Wed 11th

Thu 12th

Fri 13th

Mon 16th
3pm Funding for supporting
Service children

Tue 17th
3.30pm Service children
voice (Secondary)

Wed 18th

Thu 19th
10am Armed Forces
Friendly Schools Cymru

Fri 20th

Mon 23rd

Tue 24th

Wed 25th
3pm Armed Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru

Thu 26th
4pm Armed Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru

Fri 27th

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. Full details will be available in September 2025.



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 details of the 2024/25 funding process and guidance documents [here](#)

2025
/26

SSCE Cymru funding advice document

This document 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.

It also includes a checklist of suggested actions to help when preparing and completing a funding application as well as a list of funding ideas and suggestions.

[Available here](#)

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](#)

Armed Forces Education Trust

School funding of up to £50,000 for one year can be for anything that helps Service children to overcome any disadvantages resulting from their parent's service.

This could be relating to:

- Mobility, deployment and separation.
- Gaps in learning.
- Supporting mobile pupils with ALN.

NOTE: The AFET may also be able to help with a grant to assist an individual child to overcome difficulties linked to their parents' service and mobility.



See further information [here](#)

DEADLINE:
12th May