

MONTHLY BULLETIN

JULY 2025



Message from the SSCE Cymru team

"As we reach the end of another academic year, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful network members for their continued support. A special thank you goes to the amazing school staff who remain dedicated to supporting Service children and young people.

This year has been filled with memorable moments – many of which you can read more about on the [SSCE Cymru Journal](#) webpage. Highlights include: The Raglan school cluster film event, Collaborative projects between Neath Port Talbot schools and the local authority network, Bridgend County Borough Council's fantastic two-day Forces Festivals, Pembrokeshire County Council leading on a Service Pupil Promise project, Monmouthshire County Council hosting a brilliant National Armed Forces Day and our best [Month of the Military Child](#) celebration yet!

As summer approaches, many Service children and their families will be preparing for relocation. This can be a time of mixed emotions, so it may be helpful for schools to share our [Service children's experiences films](#). Hearing from our incredible ambassadors – many of whom have faced similar moves – can offer reassurance and support. We send our best wishes to all families relocating from Wales and a warm welcome to those moving in!

If you need to get in touch, please direct all enquiries to SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward to connecting with more of you in September."



Millie
Programme
Manager



Jo
Participation
Lead Officer



Yasmin
School Liaison
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

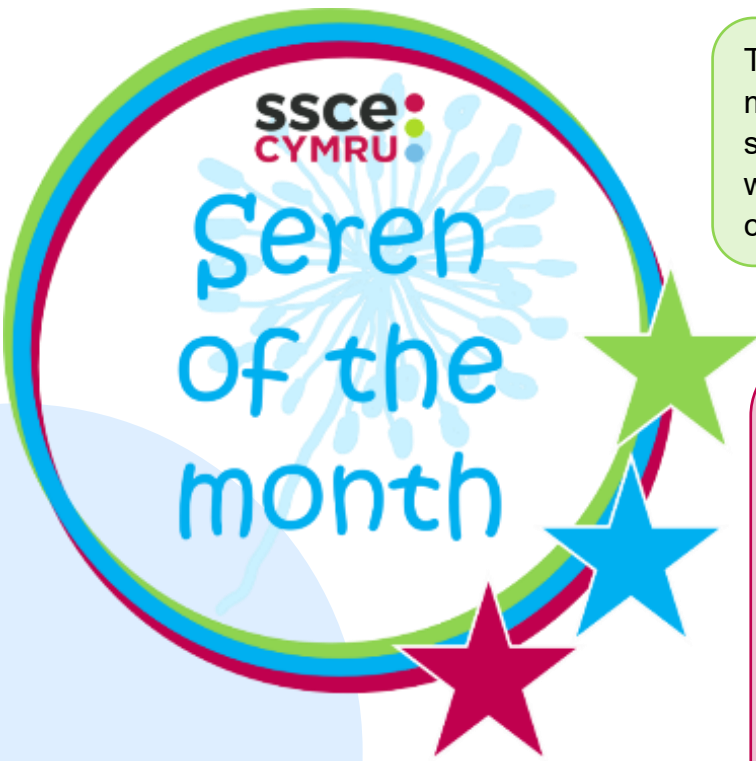


Jo

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.

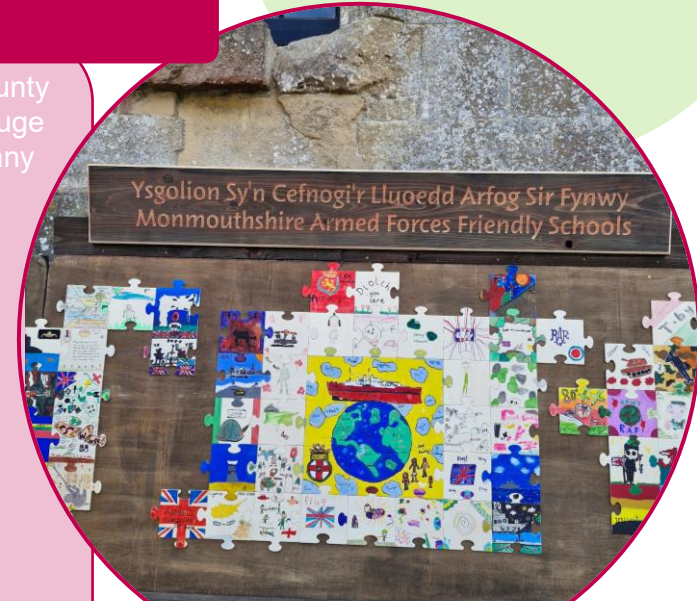
Seren of the month – July 2025

This month, SSCE Cymru extends a heartfelt thank you to Monmouthshire County Council for hosting this year's fantastic National Armed Forces Day event. A huge team effort – diolch yn fawr! We were delighted to attend the day alongside many of our wonderful network members.

A special shout-out goes to our Seren's of the Month: Joe Skidmore, Karin Spencer, and Cllr Peter Strong, for their ongoing support of SSCE Cymru and Armed Forces Friendly Schools across the county. SSCE Cymru truly appreciates the time and effort that went into this project and thanks everyone involved for championing the voice and visibility of Service children and young people in Wales.

With support from the SSCE-Wales Fund, Monmouthshire identified 130 military-connected Service children and, in preparation for hosting Wales' National Armed Forces Day 2025 at Caldicot Castle, developed a project to highlight and involve them in the celebrations.

In the lead-up, all Monmouthshire schools received wooden jigsaw pieces to decorate, while schools across Wales were encouraged to join in by printing and designing paper versions. Created by Service children and their peers, these pieces came together to form a striking large-scale artwork unveiled at the event. Running alongside Month of the Military Child, the project supported schools in identifying and better understanding Service children – set against the memorable and fitting backdrop of Caldicot Castle. A wonderful way for the young people to feel included in such a historic day!



Joe Skidmore, Karin Spencer and Cllr Peter Strong
Monmouthshire County Council



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:

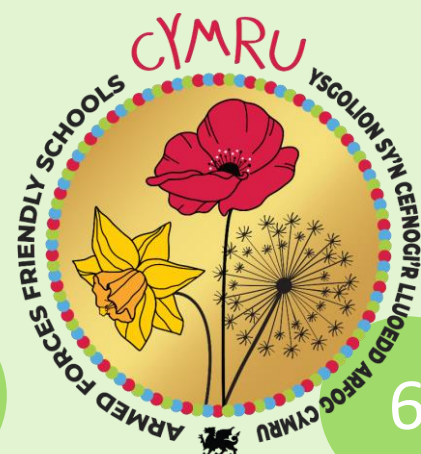
Bronze: Cwmnedd Primary School (Neath Port Talbot)

Bronze: Caerleon Comprehensive School (Newport)

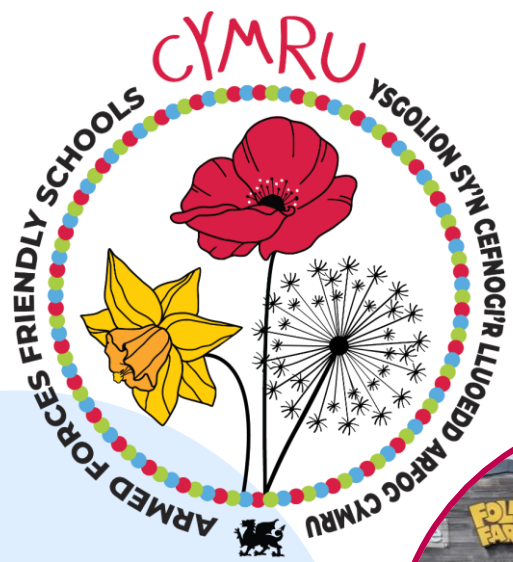
Bronze: Romilly Primary School (Vale of Glamorgan)

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

So far, 40 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 40 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

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



Never Such Innocence competition winners

Congratulations to all the winners of the Never Such Innocence creative competition 2025!

Including Evie-Sue, a Service child from Ysgol Glan Clwyd (Denbighshire) and Rochelle, a pupil from Prestatyn High School (Denbighshire).

A Soldier's Call by Evie-Sue

*A blur of green, a distant face,
My dad away, for months, no trace.
Then boots on the floor, a hug so tight,
Gone again soon, into the night.
Didn't cry much, a strange small thing,
Used to the quiet the long months bring.
Some days were sunshine, some felt grey,
But I was just little, finding my way.
A whispered story, a medal's gleam,
A life unseen, a half-formed dream.
He came and went, a soldier's call,
And I, just a child, remembered it all.*

Memories Are Very Complicated by Rochelle

*Memories are very complicated,
Memories make me feel bittersweet.
The feelings that come with them make me crazy.
Talking, laughing, remembering to meet.
That's a thunderstorm waiting to release,
here's the memory of when we first met.
And another of when we could the least,
All of these I will remember, I bet.
So use these memories when you forget,
I will remember you with no regret.*

Reading Force memoir writing competition

TELL US A STORY... READING FORCE MEMOIR WRITING COMPETITION 2025!



We are delighted to invite children & young people with any kind of military connection to enter! Submissions can be reflections on your own life as a military child or young person, or about a parent, relative, or admired person.



YOU CAN SUBMIT
ENTRIES FROM 1ST MAY
UNTIL 31ST AUGUST

PRIZES

ONE WINNER FROM EACH SERVICE WILL HAVE THEIR ENTRY PUBLISHED IN THE FAMILY FEDERATION MAGAZINES, *ARMY & YOU*, *HOMEPORT*, AND *ENVOY*. SIX RUNNERS UP WILL RECEIVE £50 BOOK TOKENS.

GOOD LUCK!

Bolt
Burdon
Kemp

This competition is
generously supported by
Bolt Burdon Kemp

What are the entry requirements?

Children & young people

Please submit a piece of writing between 500 and 1,000 words. This can be a poem, memory, reflection, or true story. You are welcome to include an illustration.

How to submit?

All submissions must be emailed to: info@readingforce.org.uk

Posted submissions will not be accepted.

Full details can be found here:

www.readingforce.org.uk

Reading Force is a Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No: 1159890, Cobseo member.

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.

JULY schedule

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| | Tue 1st 10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru | Wed 2nd 3pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru | Thu 3rd 3.30pm Service children voice (Primary) | Fri 4th |
| Mon 7th 3pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru | Tue 8th | Wed 9th 3pm Funding for supporting Service children | Thu 10th 3.30pm Service children voice (Secondary) | Fri 11th |
| Mon 14th | Tue 15th | Wed 16th | Thu 17th | Fri 18th |
| Mon 21st | Tue 22nd | Wed 23rd | Thu 24th | Fri 25th |
| Mon 28th | Tue 29th | Wed 30th | Thu 31st | |

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 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
-WF

SSCE-WF good practice examples document.

[Available here](#)

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](#)