

MONTHLY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2025



Message from the SSCE Cymru team

"The SSCE Cymru team has had an incredibly busy few months, delivering Armed Forces Festivals across five different areas in Wales. It has been fantastic to see so many schools from various local authorities come together to celebrate with military-connected children and young people. To find out more about who attended and what we got up to, follow the link to the [SSCE Cymru Journal](#), where you'll find a write-up of each event along with some wonderful photos from the days. Take a look - you might even spot someone you recognise!

As the year draws to a close, we also want to take a moment to wish everyone a Nadolig Llawen — Merry Christmas! This is a time for rest and family, but we also want to remember the Service children and families spending the holidays with a loved one serving away. You are in our thoughts, and we hope your reunion in the New Year is filled with joy and happiness.

Diolch / Thank you to everyone who continues to work with us, and to all the families who support our brave Service personnel. Best wishes to you all as we look forward to a hopeful and inspiring year ahead."



Millie
Programme
Manager



Jo
Participation
Lead Officer



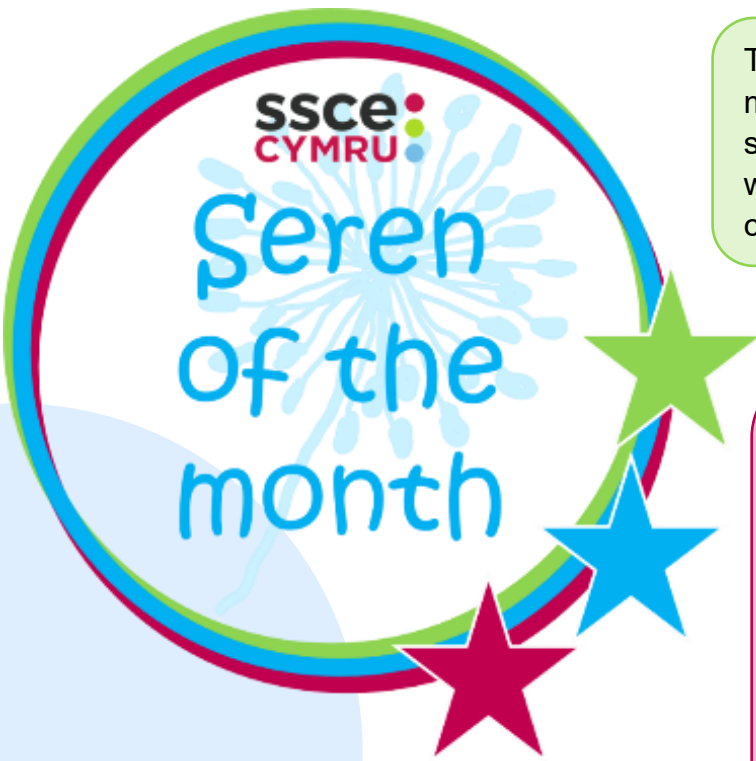
Yasmin
School Liaison
Officer



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 – December 2025

The SSCE Cymru team would like to recognise two amazing young people, Logan from Ysgol Bae Baglan (Neath Port Talbot) and Ioan from Crickhowell High School (Powys), as our Serens of the Month for December. SSCE Cymru invited schools to put forward military-connected young people to contribute to a project focused on Remembrance and what it means to them. Logan and Ioan embraced this opportunity, choosing to share their personal family stories. These stories help to bring history to life and honour the memory of those who served. Their short video clips can be found on the [SSCE Cymru Remembrance](#) webpage.

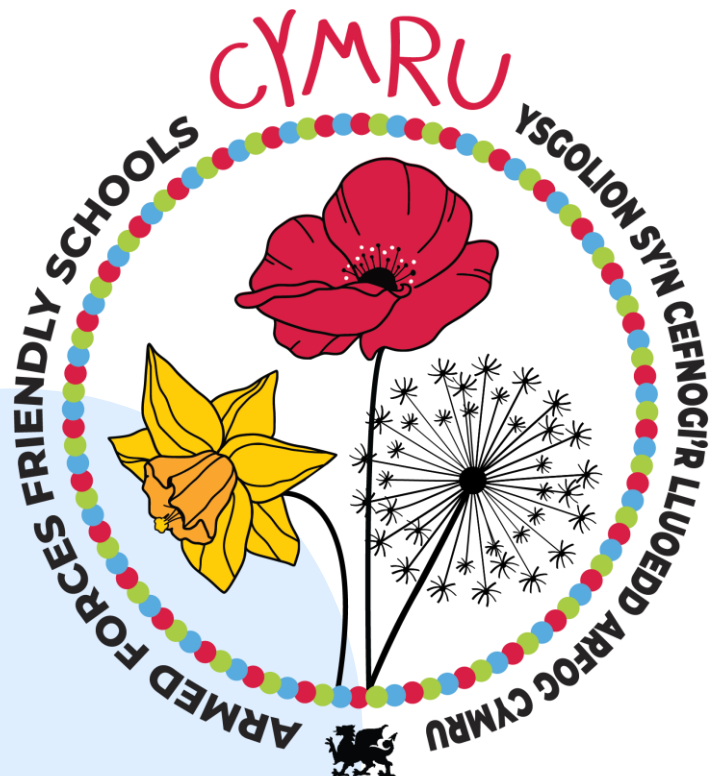
Logan recently joined us at the South Wales Armed Forces Festival, where he met many other military-connected young people and took part in a range of team-building and creative activities, all with a strong focus on wellbeing. Following his involvement in the Remembrance project, Ioan was selected to visit the Senedd alongside other military-connected children and young people and had the opportunity to meet the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Lynne Neagle. During the visit, Ioan shared his experiences of being part of an Armed Forces family.

Logan and Ioan are perfect examples of how positive outcomes can grow from collaborative efforts. Thank you both for being brilliant ambassadors and for taking part in such meaningful opportunities to highlight the voices of Service children.



Logan and Ioan

Service children from Ysgol Bae Baglan and Crickhowell High School



ssce
CYMRU

SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMURU

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: Ysgol Y Plas (Conwy)

Bronze: Ysgol Caer Elen (Pembrokeshire)

Gold renewal: Ysgol Pen Y Bryn (Conwy)

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

So far, 46 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 46 have achieved Bronze, 13 have achieved Silver and 7 have achieved Gold!!!



46



13



7

ssce
CYMRU



Click here for further information about Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru


CLILC
WLGA

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.




**Armed Forces
Festival – West Wales**




**Celebrating Treorchy Comprehensive
School's Commitment to Service Children
and Young People**



**Llanfair Primary School Celebrates
their Silver Armed Forces
Friendly School Cymru status**



**Never Such Innocence – Service
children visit to the Senedd**



**Army Cadets
Stakeholders Day at
Kinmel Park Training Camp**

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

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 first Armed Forces Festival in West Wales in October.

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



Service Pupil Promise

An initiative designed to celebrate, support and empower military connected children and young people by giving them a direct voice in shaping the support they receive from schools and local authorities.

A Service Pupil Promise is a commitment from the local authority to support children from Armed Forces families ensuring we listen to their voices and strengthen the local authority's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.



Pembrokeshire County Council

In partnership with SSCE Cymru, Pembrokeshire County Council's Education Welfare Service has launched the first Service Pupil Promise (SPP). The project included over 60 military connected children who took part in events/workshops to help develop the promise, giving them a direct voice in shaping how schools and the local authority support them. During the activities, the Service children had the opportunity to reflect on the impact of Service life, share their experiences and views, consider how their schools support and celebrate them whilst also identifying what more could be done to improve provision for Service children. They enjoyed a range of creative and reflective tasks culminating in the creation of individual school pledges e.g. "We promise to look out for each other while our parents look after our country."

The local authorities promise was launched in November and includes 'What you told us' and 'What we promise'.

The SSCE Cymru team are now working with other local authorities to support them with delivering workshops/events to produce their own Service Pupil Promise. Initially, these local authorities include Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Powys.

Remembrance 2025

See the [SSCE Cymru Remembrance webpage](#) for details of how schools in Wales marked Remembrance



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:**
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:

Thursday 11th December 09:00-10:00
Wednesday 14th January 09:00-10:00



See further
information
here