

MONTHLY BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2025



Message from the SSCE Cymru team

"Welcome back! We hope you had a restful summer and are ready for the new academic year this autumn.

A special croeso/welcome to any new Service children, young people, and families who have recently moved to Wales. We know how challenging starting a new school can be for Service children and their families, so school staff may wish to highlight any clubs or support networks available for military-connected pupils. And if your school has an [Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru](#) status, be sure to let any new arrivals know that there is a designated staff member already in place to offer tailored support.

As the term begins, to help any new pupils manage this transition, schools may find it helpful to share links to our Service Children's Experiences films, hearing from our ambassadors can offer reassurance and a sense of belonging. Or additionally other useful links for recommended resources are available on the [SSCE Cymru Padlet](#).

SSCE Cymru will continue supporting schools with Service children throughout this academic year. For advice, resources, or guidance, please contact us at SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk."



Millie
Programme
Manager



Jo
Participation
Lead Officer



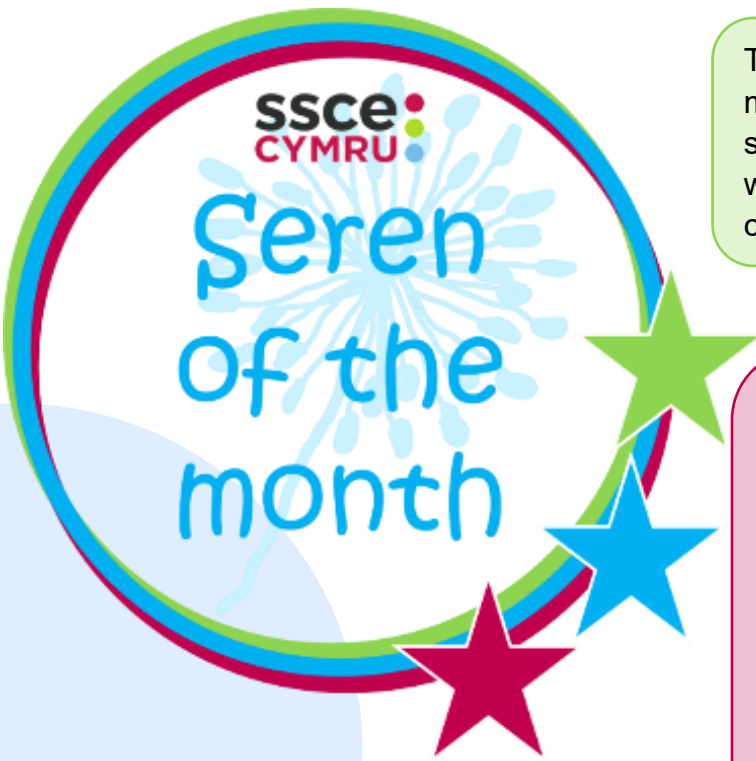
Yasmin
School Liaison
Officer



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 – September 2025

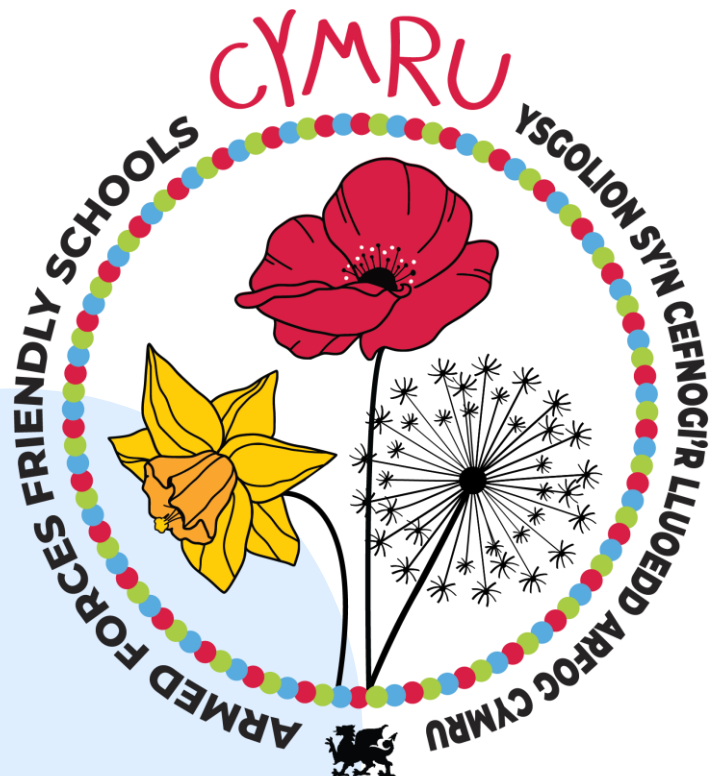
Congratulations to Neil Arbery and Sarah Humphreys, Schools Group Lead Officers for Strategic Development (Primary and Secondary respectively) in the Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate at Bridgend County Borough Council. You are our Seren's for September! Neil and Sarah have shown outstanding commitment to supporting Service children and young people, most recently by leading on the organisation of this year's Forces Festival to celebrate Armed Forces Week. Over two fantastic days, the brilliant team at the local authority welcomed pupils from 20 local schools, giving them the chance to connect, laugh, and enjoy a wide range of engaging activities. This annual event has quickly become a highlight in the calendar and is a shining example of how a successful bid to the SSCE-Wales Fund can bring communities together and create lasting memories for young people.

In addition to this, Neil chairs a regular network meeting for schools, ensuring strong communication between schools, SSCE Cymru, and the local authority. He is brilliantly supported in this work by Sarah, and together they make a fantastic team. Their collaborative approach helps maintain positive links across all settings, ensuring Service children remain a shared priority.

A huge thank you to Neil and Sarah for your dedication and teamwork. You are making a real difference for schools, families, and young people across Bridgend.



**Neil Arbery &
Sarah Humphreys**
Bridgend County Borough
Council



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:

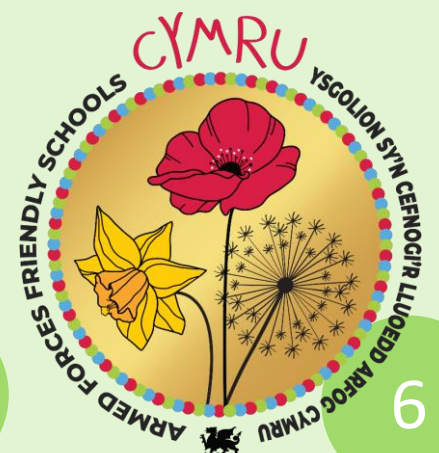
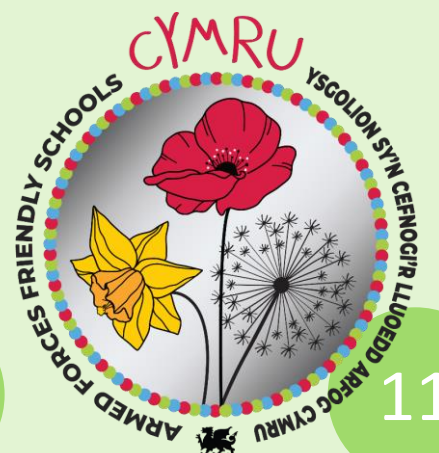
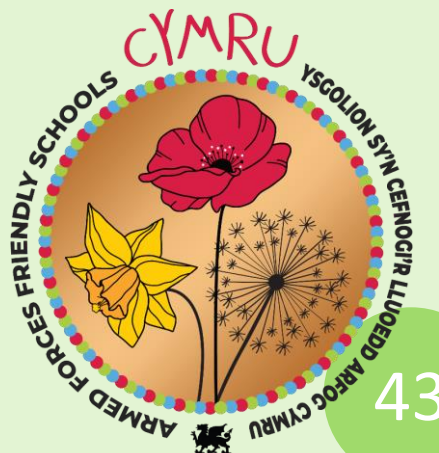
Bronze: Dwr Y Felin Comprehensive School (Neath Port Talbot)

Bronze: Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School (Neath Port Talbot)

Bronze: Treorchy Comprehensive School (Rhondda Cynon Taf)

Silver: Llanfair Primary School (Vale of Glamorgan)

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



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: TBC

VENUE: Bridgend TBC

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: TBC

VENUE: Powys TBC



Upcoming events...

Service Children's Progression
ALLIANCE

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



ssce
CYMRU



[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

 **CLILC**
WLGA

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:**
26th Sep
7th Nov
19th Dec

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 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

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:

Wednesday 17th September 09:00-10:00

Thursday 2nd October 09:00-10:00

Monday 13th October 15:30-16:30



See further
information
here