

SSCE
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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



MONTHLY BULLETIN

APRIL 2025



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WLGA

Message from the SSCE Cymru team...

"It's our favourite time of year... April!!! This month we celebrate international Month of the Military Child (MotMC), giving our school communities a wonderful opportunity to recognise Service children / young people and their role, by setting aside some time to express appreciation for their unique way of life through various fun activities. This is also a chance to reflect on the sacrifices they make and the strength they show.

For inspirational ideas, please visit our dedicated [Month of the Military Child](#) webpage and don't forget to let us know how you will be celebrating this year. We would LOVE to hear from you, so please tag us in any of your school social media posts, and we will give you a BIG shout out for being Armed Forces Friendly and advocating for your Service children / young people. A big thank you to our network and schools that work with us for your continued support of the SSCE Cymru programme. We look forward to seeing how some of the successful funding grants have been used towards celebration projects this year. Your involvement makes a difference! #MotMCCymru #SSCECymru

If you have any further questions or need advice on any matters regarding Service children in education here in Wales, then please contact us via SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk."



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



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

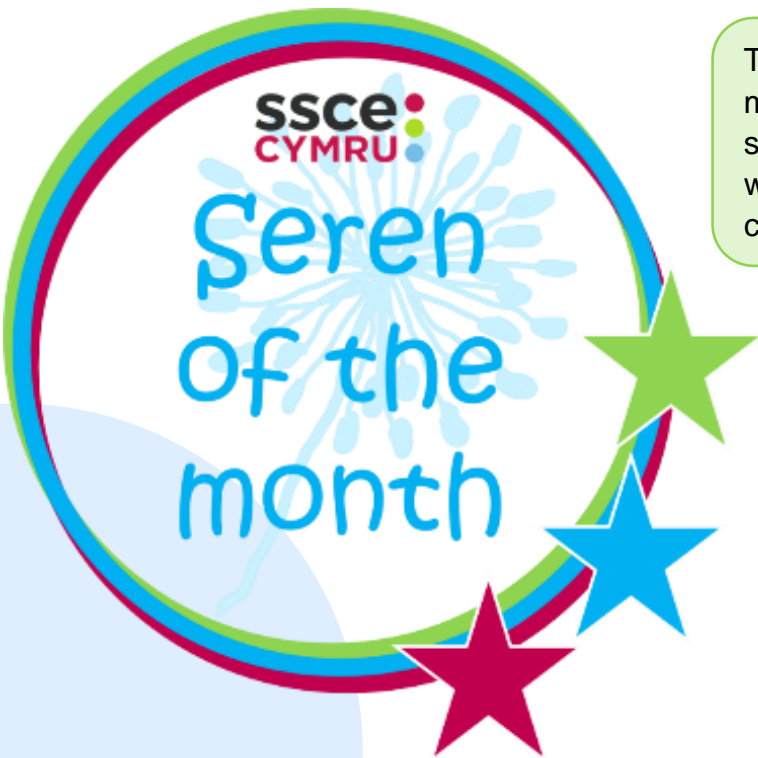


Jo

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 – April 2025

For the Month of the Military Child, SSCE Cymru is proud to name Emily, a pupil from Ysgol Gynradd Corn Hir (Isle of Anglesey), as our Seren of the Month. Emily's school commented that Emily, is a spirited 12-year-old whose father serves with the RFA, excels academically despite the challenges of military life. She is a beloved friend with a passion for sports and a fun-loving, caring nature.

Along with her school friend Ani, Emily narrated the Welsh audio for six storybooks from the charity Little Troopers, offering insight into the experiences of Service children. With her dad deployed at the time, Emily felt a personal connection to the stories, and Ani gained a deeper understanding of Emily's feelings.

These books are an invaluable resource for any school, especially those with Service children. If your school would like to receive a FREE bilingual collection of these storybooks, please contact us at SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk



Emily
Service child at
Ysgol Gynradd Corn Hir



Mis y Plentyn
Milwrol

Month of the
Military Child



Ebrill/April | #MotMCCymru

April/Ebrill | #MotMCCymru

Ways for schools to get involved...

- Understand
- Engage
- Celebrate

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See further
information
here

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**Month of the
Military Child**
**Mis y Plentyn
Milwrol**



April/Ebrill | #MotMCCymru



Little Troopers

Virtual workshops

Little Troopers have created two free online workshops with the aim of bringing Service children together to explore the unique challenges and opportunities that they experience, and to celebrate what it means to be a 'Little Trooper'.

The sessions are pre-recorded as a 'live' event, delivered by an experienced team of facilitators using Little Troopers' primary school resources incorporating storytelling, movement, group discussion and role play. The workshops are open to all Service children in your setting of primary age and suitable for groups of any size.

SSCE Cymru encourage you to join the virtual workshop on 'Purple Up' Day (Wednesday 30th April).

Contact SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk for further information and resources.

Bi-lingual books

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.

Contact us at
SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk to
request your schools' FREE books.

Month of the Military Child Mis y Plentyn Milwrol



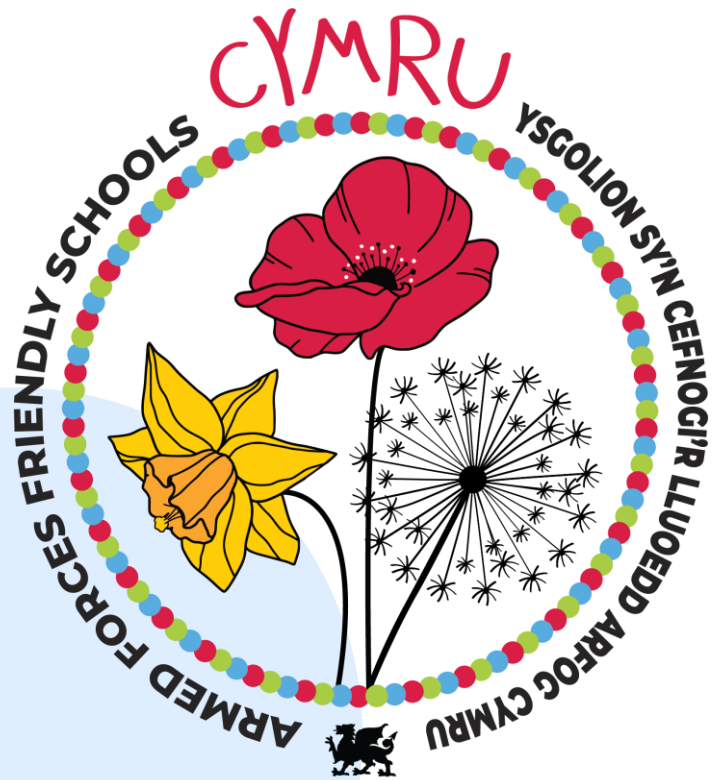
April/Ebrill | #MotMCCymru

Here are some examples of how schools and local authorities across Wales celebrated Month of the Military Child in 2024!
Don't forget to send your photos to SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk, so they can be added to the [SSCE Cymru website](https://www.ssce.gov.uk).



Click here to see details of #MotMCCymru activities





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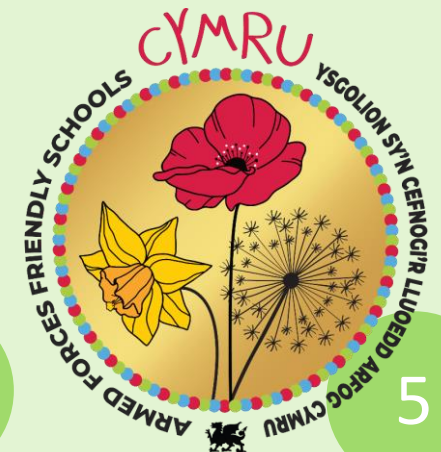
SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU

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 Golwg Pen y Fan (Powys)

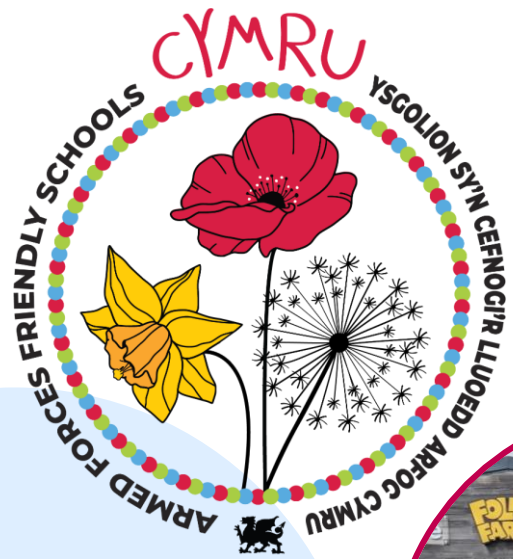
Congratulations to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. So far, 33 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 33 have achieved Bronze, 10 have achieved Silver and 5 have achieved Gold!!!



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



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



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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

Dates for the diary...

SCiP Alliance webinar series



This year, the SCiP Alliance are hosting a series of FREE webinars for schools.

THEME: Maximising the Toolkit

Wednesday 30th April 16:00

The SCiP Alliance Engagement Manager, will share effective approaches to utilising the Thriving Lives Toolkit. This session will provide practical strategies and insights to help schools maximise the toolkit's impact, strengthen their support for Service families, and drive positive change.



Click here for further information and to register

'Purple up' day!!!

Wednesday 30th of April is the day to 'Purple up' for Month of the Military Child in Wales!

- Wear purple
- Create purple artwork and displays
- Take a photo of what you get up to
- Send your photos to SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk
- Post your photo/s on social media (tag @SSCECymru on [X](#) and [Facebook](#)) using the hashtag [#MotMCCymru](#) – with a message to Service children, thanking them for their important role in the Armed Forces community.



Click here to see how others have participated in 'Purple up' day in previous years

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.

APRIL schedule

	Tue 1st 10am Month of the Military Child 4pm AFFS Cymru	Wed 2nd 10am AFFS Cymru 3.30pm Service children voice (Primary)	Thu 3rd 10am SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit 3pm Month of the Military Child	Fri 4th 10am Funding for supporting Service children 3pm AFFS Cymru
Mon 7th 3.30pm Service children voice (Secondary)	Tue 8th 10am AFFS Cymru 2pm SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit	Wed 9th	Thu 10th	Fri 11th
Mon 14th	Tue 15th	Wed 16th	Thu 17th	Fri 18th
Mon 21st	Tue 22nd	Wed 23rd	Thu 24th	Fri 25th
Mon 28th 3pm AFFS Cymru	Tue 29th 3pm Funding for supporting Service children	Wed 30th 10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru		



See the further details, including the full timetable and joining instructions here

SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions

MAY schedule

			Thu 1st 10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru	Fri 2nd
Mon 5th	Tue 6th 3pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru	Wed 7th 10am SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit 3.30pm SC voice (Primary)	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	Mon 29th	Tue 30th

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



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...

Service Pupil Support programme 2025/26

The MODs Service Pupil Support (SPS) programme will award grants of 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. Schools are encouraged to work collaboratively and apply in a cluster.



[See further information here](#)

Project themes for 2025/26 are:

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

DEADLINE:
30th April

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.



[See further information here](#)

DEADLINE:
12th May

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.