



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

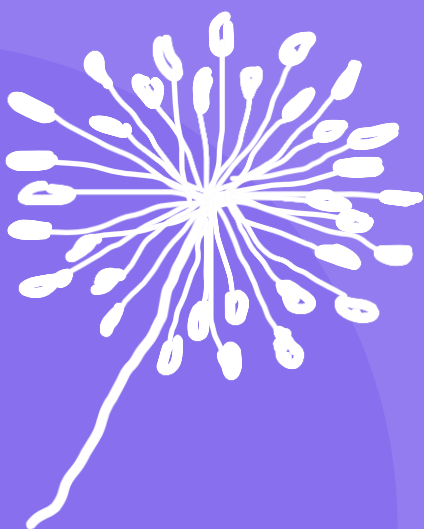


April/Ebrill | #MotMCCymru

# Month of the Military Child

## APRIL 2025

Ways for schools to get involved...



**Understand**  
**Engage**  
**Celebrate**

**ssce**  
**CYMRU**

SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN  
IN EDUCATION WALES  
CYNORTHWYO PLANT MILWYR  
YN YSGOLION CYMRU

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, which highlights the important role Service children play in the Armed Forces community. It is a time to applaud Armed Forces families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome.

The SSCE Cymru team would like to encourage education settings across Wales to carry out activities during this month to understand, raise awareness and celebrate the unique experiences this group of children and young people have, and become a more Armed Forces-friendly environment.

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For further information, advice or support with any ideas, please visit the [SSCE Cymru website](#), join us at a [drop-in session](#) or contact [SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk)



**Millie**  
Programme  
Manager



**Jo**  
Participation  
Lead Officer



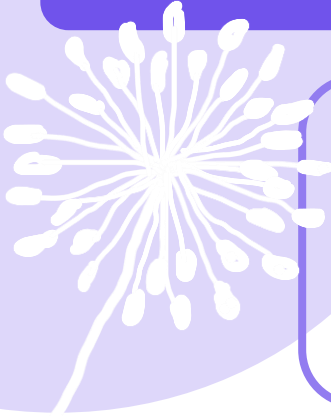
**Cara**  
School  
Liaison  
Officer



**Becca**  
School  
Liaison  
Officer

# Purple Up Day

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



## Why purple?

Purple was chosen because it symbolizes all branches of the military, a combination of Army Green, Air Force Blue, Coast Guard Blue, Marine Red and Navy Blue.

## How can you get involved?

- Wear purple (consider raising money for an Armed Forces charity).
- Create purple artwork and displays.
- Take photos of what you get up to.
- Share 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.
- Send your photos to [SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk).



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# UNDERSTAND

## the experiences of an Armed Forces family

Watch and share the NEW SSCE Cymru Service children's stories to learn more about their unique experiences.

Utilise the [Armed Forces Day Learning Resources](#) to explore the history of the Armed Forces.

Watch and share the NEW SSCE Cymru school good practice films to learn how different schools across Wales are supporting their Service children.

On a world map, pinpoint where Service children have lived, or their parents have been posted.

Give Service children the opportunity to deliver a presentation about their experiences of being part of an Armed Forces family or share photos, to showcase their positive opportunities.

Run a discussion group with your Service children to gain a better understanding of their experiences and identify ways the school can respond to their needs.

Use the Royal British Legion's [Remembrance Teaching Resources](#) for age appropriate resources to "reflect on Service and sacrifice" and learn more about our nation's history.

Organise for the local [Armed Forces engagement team](#) to deliver a presentation/class on a topic linked to the Armed Forces.

Run a story time using books about Service children's experiences, the Armed Forces lifestyle, being a pupil in a new school or appreciating differences in one another. A series of six bilingual [Little Troopers](#) books can be requested for FREE from [SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk).

Make a Time Zone Wall, including a series of clocks to show the different time zones around the world where Service children have lived, or their parents have been posted.

Learn about the different cultures and traditions from the places Service children at your school have lived.

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# ENGAGE

## with the Armed Forces community

Celebrate a pupil's family member who has previously served or is currently serving in the Armed Forces by asking children to share pictures and medals.

Ask a current or former member of the Armed Forces (a parent, sibling or friend) to be a guest speaker at the school and share their experiences.

Include information in school newsletters/social media about support available from [Armed Forces organisations and charities](#).

Invite your Local Authority Armed Forces Champion to attend events/activities during the Month of the Military Child.

Use the Month of the Military Child banner and square image on social media and email signatures.

Work with SSCE Cymru to achieve your [Armed Forces Friendly School Cymru](#) status.

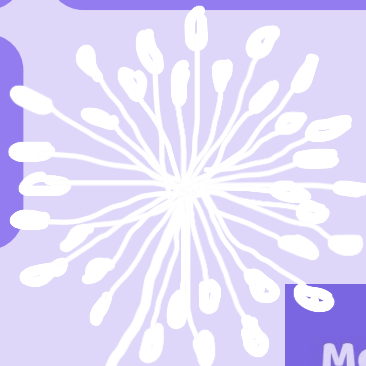
Support Service children in writing a thank you card to someone who helped them or was a good friend to them when they arrived in the area.

Create opportunities for Service children to meet and share experiences with other Service children within the local area.

Invite pupils to say a few words of appreciation about the Armed Forces through writing poems, songs or writing letters.

Invite the [engagement team](#) at your local Armed Forces base/unit/station to deliver an activity (STEM or team-building) with pupils.

Attend your local Armed Forces Covenant forum meetings to network and make connections with the local Armed Forces community.



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# CELEBRATE

## Service children's experiences

Celebrate Purple Up day on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Make bunting and posters and use purple balloons to decorate the school.

Create a display to celebrate Month of the Military Child using purple handprints.

Create purple and dandelion themed artwork and display around the school.

Encourage Service children to get creative and produce a piece of artwork that showcases their experiences of being part of an Armed Forces family.

Complete Armed Forces-themed activity sheets, puzzles and wordsearches, available from [Little Troopers](#).

Hold a Month of the Military Child assembly. Invite the Service children to recite the Dandelion poem.

[Sing Dandelions](#) by Never Such Innocence. Music video, backing track and sheet music available.

Conduct fundraising activities and donate the proceeds to a local or national Armed Forces charity.

Support children in entering the Never Such Innocence [Poetry and Art Competition](#). Open 1 April - 2 May.

Offer tweens and teens the *Life of a Page Turner Reading Journal*, a personal journal in which military young people can express their thoughts and feelings in words and drawings. Available through [Reading Force](#).

Support children in entering the [Reading Force Memoir Writing Competition](#). Open 1 May – 31 August.

Host a celebratory event for Service children and their family and friends.

Tie purple ribbons on a fence or tree for every Service child in the school.

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# Little Troopers

## Virtual workshops and bilingual books

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 30<sup>th</sup> April).**

Please contact us at [SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk) for further information and resources.

### Little Troopers / SSCE Cymru bilingual 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.

Please contact us at [SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk) to request your schools' FREE books.

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## Celebrating the Month of the Military Child with Little Troopers

The military children's charity, Little Troopers, is a great place to go for inspiration on how you can recognise and celebrate the service children in your setting this April.

### Little Troopers School Pack

The charity has created a brand-new Little Troopers "Month of the Military Child School Pack" that is free to download from [www.littletroopers.net/month-of-the-military-child](http://www.littletroopers.net/month-of-the-military-child)

In the pack, you'll find lots of activity ideas to engage children and get them talking and writing about what life is like growing up as a 'little trooper'.

### Dandelion Day – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

This year, Little Troopers is encouraging schools and families to get involved in 'Dandelion Day' by wearing something yellow on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April. This small act will make your service children feel recognised, included and celebrated. It also gives you the perfect opportunity to talk about why the dandelion is the official flower of the military child, by using the Dandelion Poem, which you'll find in the Little Troopers schools pack.

### Crafts

Looking for ideas to engage younger children? Head to the Little Troopers website where you'll find fun, dandelion-themed activity sheets to download, including dandelion playdough, dandelion biscuits, dandelion art prints and dandelion crafts.

### Events

Little Troopers is also running online and face-to-face events throughout April, bringing together as many military children as possible during the Month of the Military Child. Find out more at [www.littletroopers.net/month-of-the-military-child](http://www.littletroopers.net/month-of-the-military-child)



## Dandelion Day 4th April

For the first time we are dedicating a day in April to become Dandelion Day.

We would love to encourage you to join us to dedicate this day to celebrating military children.

Wear something yellow such as a pair of socks or a hair scrunchie!



**little TROOPERS For all Forces Families**

### MONTH OF THE Military CHILD

## SCHOOLS PACK

April is all about shining a light on children who are connected to the British Armed Forces community. It's a time for your school to celebrate the service children in your setting, as well as getting ALL your students to learn more about what it's like to be a little trooper.

As a charity, we think it's really important that schools recognise and acknowledge the unique experiences of military children. Military life can be an exciting adventure, but at times, it can also be challenging. This pack is full of ideas to help you acknowledge this; marking the month by celebrating your service children for the unique life that they lead and encouraging them to share some of their experiences with their peers.

In the following pages you will find assembly planners, activity ideas, lesson plans and more. Many of the activities are dandelion themed, because the dandelion is the official flower of the military child. *Strong and hardy, dandelions thrive wherever the wind carries them, just like our little troopers.*

**You might choose to do one of the activities or you might do all of them as part of a series across the month.**

**This pack includes:**

- Dandelion Poem
- Letter Writing activities
- Class fingerprint activity
- Assembly Planners – Primary & Secondary
- Certificate template
- Mindfulness Colouring

**Dandelion Day - 4 April 2025**

We would love to encourage you to dedicate a whole day to celebrating your military children! We have named Friday 4 April 2025 as Dandelion Day 2025 and we invite you to join us. You might like to ask your children and teachers to come in dressed in yellow or wearing a yellow item such as socks or hoodies or t-shirts, then you might ask them to come in wearing these.

On Dandelion Day, you might choose to do activities from this pack or even invite serving parents to come into school to speak in assembly. However you mark the day, we'd love to hear about it and see your photos so do keep in touch by emailing [info@littletroopers.net](mailto:info@littletroopers.net) or tagging us on social media.

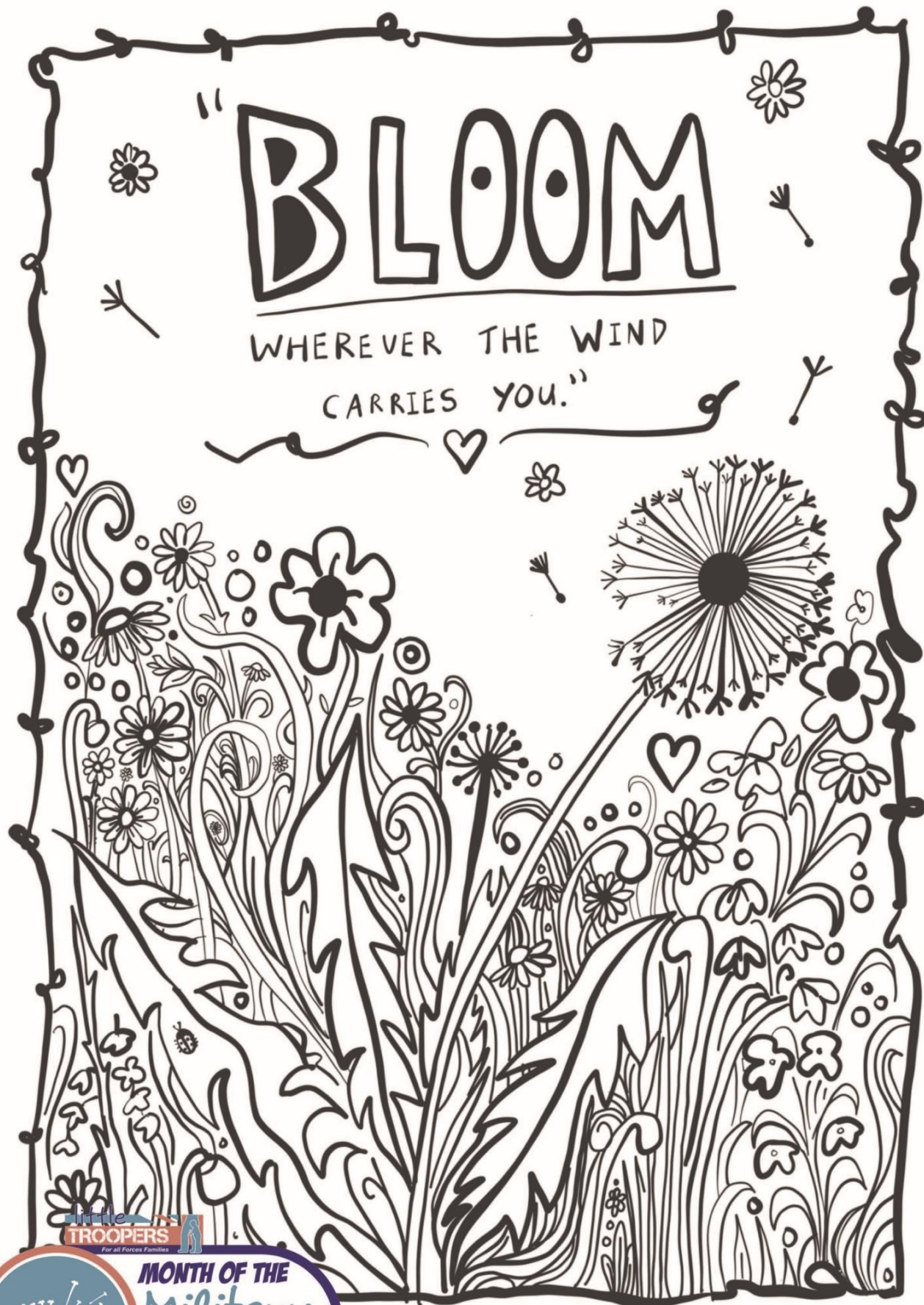
Don't forget that we also have lots of free resources to support military children all year round on the Little Troopers website including interactive video workshops especially designed for use in schools, our 'Day of Feelings' illustrations and worksheets, our Forces Life Club pack and a podcast for military teens (called SQUAD) to name just a few. Head to [www.littletroopers.net](http://www.littletroopers.net) and the At School area.

**For the first time we are dedicating a day in April to become Dandelion Day. We would love to encourage you to dedicate a whole day to celebrating your military children within your setting!**

**We have named Friday 4 April 2025 as Dandelion Day 2025 and we invite you to join us.**

Email: [info@littletroopers.net](mailto:info@littletroopers.net)  
 Little Troopers - Registered charity no. 1142958  
[www.littletroopers.net](http://www.littletroopers.net)  
 Twitter: @littletroopers  
 Facebook: littletrooperscharity



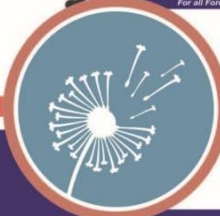


# "BLOOM

WHEREVER THE WIND  
CARRIES YOU."



MONTH OF THE  
Military  
**CHILD**



Email: [info@littletroopers.net](mailto:info@littletroopers.net)

Little Troopers Registered charity no.  
(England and Wales) 1149258

[www.littletroopers.net](http://www.littletroopers.net)

twitter: [@littletroopers\\_](https://twitter.com/littletroopers_)

facebook: [littletroopersathome](https://www.facebook.com/littletroopersathome)





Month of the Military Child

neversuchinnocence.com /month-of-the-military-child



Sing 'Dandelions'  
Canu 'Dandelions'

Memories | Atgofion

Past, present and future

Y gorffennol, y  
presennol a'r dyfodol

By Isla N, 9-II, Army  
Gan Isla N. 9-II, Fyddin



Poetry & Art Competition  
Cystadleuaeth Barddoniaeth a Chelf  
I April - 2 May / I Ebrill - 2 Mai



Wear Purple!  
Gwisgwch Porffor!

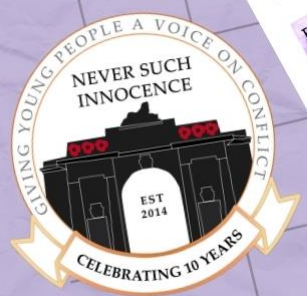


By Georgia, 8, RN  
Gan Georgia, 8, RN



By Lewis, RN  
Gan Lewis, RN

a special memories





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

READING  
FORCE



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.

Bolt  
Burdon  
Kemp

## GOOD LUCK!

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](mailto:info@readingforce.org.uk)

Posted submissions will not be accepted.

Full details can be found here:

[www.readingforce.org.uk](http://www.readingforce.org.uk)

# Armed Forces Day 2025

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June

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.

Armed Forces Day in Wales commemorates and celebrates the Armed Forces community and is a partnership event between local authorities, Welsh Government, the tri services and other partners. Each year, Wales' Armed Forces Day is hosted and celebrated in a different region across the Country.

**This year Monmouthshire will be hosting the celebrations!**

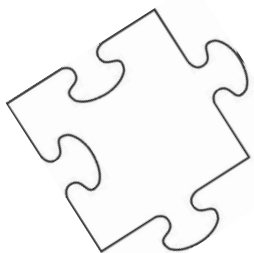
Monmouthshire County Council are inviting Service children and their peers across Wales to get involved by designing a jigsaw piece which will be displayed as one collective piece of art at the Caldicot Castle and Country Park.

**Artwork theme:** 'What the Armed Forces means to you'.

**To get involved:**

- Download the template from the 'Armed Forces Day' page of the [SSCE Cymru website](#).
- Have fun designing your jigsaw piece!
- Cut out the template
- Return in the post to the address provided.

Don't forget to share on social media tagging @SSCECymru and @MonmouthshireCC



**POST TO:**

The Armed Forces Team  
Monmouthshire County Council  
County Hall  
United Kingdom  
NP15 1GA

**RETURN BY:**

**2nd May 2025**

**NOTE:** Monmouthshire schools can expect to receive wooden jigsaw pieces from the local authority.



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CYMRU**

SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN  
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YN YSGOLION CYMRU



# Service children voice

The SSCE Cymru team are passionate about pupil voice. We love to listen to Service children and young people and actively encourage educators in Wales to recognise how listening can help us all change things for the better.

## Service children clubs Cymru

SSCE Cymru can offer ideas on various sessions and guidance on how to set up a club in your educational setting. Should your school want to establish a club and would like further information on how to apply for funding to support a project like this, then please come along to an [online drop-in](#) for an informal discussion about your next steps.

## Who can be a Service Children Ambassador?

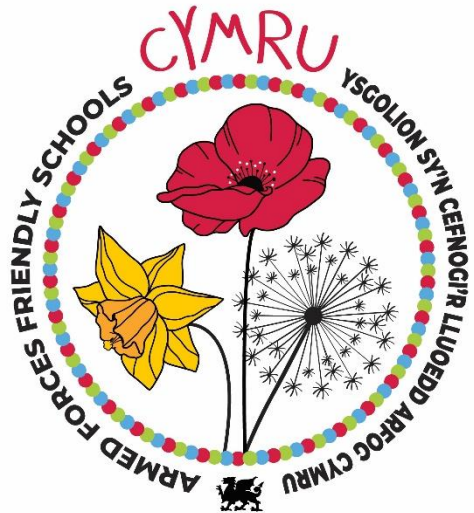
Any child or young person with a connection to the Armed Forces who is currently in education in Wales can become a Service Children Ambassador.

If your school has an established club, SSCE Cymru encourages its members to consider volunteering as an ambassador.

As an ambassador, they will represent their school's club and may be invited to share their experiences as part of an Armed Forces family with our team and the SSCE Cymru network, giving them an important voice for other Service children and young people in Wales.



# Become an Armed Forces Friendly School Cymru



## OBJECTIVES

1. Embed good practice for supporting Service children

2. Create a positive environment for Service children to share their experiences

3. Encourage schools to become more engaged with their Armed Forces community

## CRITERIA THEMES

### IDENTIFY

Service children and a key member of staff

### UNDERSTAND

Service children and their individual needs

### ENGAGE

With SSCE Cymru and the Armed Forces community

For further information and support please visit the 'Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru' page of the [SSCE Cymru website](#) and come along to a [drop-in session](#).

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# 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

	<b>Tue 1<sup>st</sup></b> 10:00 Month of the Military Child 16:00 AFFS Cymru	<b>Wed 2<sup>nd</sup></b> 10:00 AFFS Cymru 15:30 SC voice (Primary)	<b>Thu 3<sup>rd</sup></b> 10:00 SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit 15:00 Month of the Military Child	<b>Fri 4<sup>th</sup></b> 10:00 Funding for supporting SC 15:00 AFFS Cymru
<b>Mon 7<sup>th</sup></b> 15:30 SC voice (Secondary)	<b>Tue 8<sup>th</sup></b> 10:00 AFFS Cymru 15:00 SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives TK	<b>Wed 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thu 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fri 11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Mon 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tue 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wed 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thu 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fri 18<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Mon 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Tue 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Wed 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Thu 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fri 25<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Mon 28<sup>th</sup></b> 15:00 AFFS Cymru	<b>Tue 29<sup>th</sup></b> 15:00 Funding for supporting Service children	<b>Wed 30<sup>th</sup></b> 10:00 Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru		

For joining instructions, please visit the 'upcoming events' page of the [SSCE Cymru website](#) or get in touch with the team.

## SSCE Cymru Directory of Support

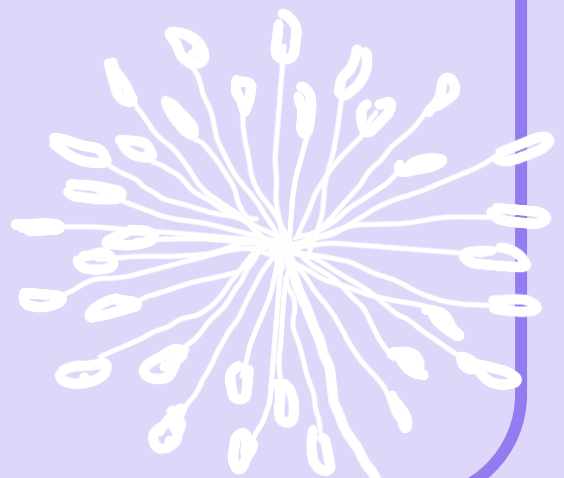
The SSCE Cymru Directory of Support includes details of nearly 100 organisations that are relevant to supporting Service children; with search and filter functions that help users utilise the breadth of information.

To access the directory of support please visit:  
[www.sscecymru.co.uk/resources/directoryofsupport](http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/resources/directoryofsupport)

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## NOTES / IDEAS:



Don't forget to post on social media using hashtag: #MotMCCymru

Tag @SSCECymru on:  & 