

Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund (2026/27)

OVERVIEW AND GUIDANCE

Summary

The *Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund* (SSCE-WF) is funded by the Welsh Government and administered by [SSCE Cymru](#), which is hosted by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA).

Schools and local authorities in Wales can apply for grant funding to deliver projects and interventions during the 2026/27 academic year, to provide support to Service children, from nursery to sixth-form, who meet the [Welsh Government's definition of a Service child](#).

There are three grants available:

- [Small project grants](#)
- [Month of the Military Child grant](#)
- [Intervention grant](#)

Further information including; overview, eligibility, essential criteria, priority themes, funding ideas and support available for each grant is provided below.

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Small project grants

Schools and local authorities in Wales can apply for a small grant to deliver a project that provides support to their Service children.

Applicants can apply for funding once per round (see [Timeline / deadlines](#) section below).

Eligibility

Up to £500 grant

Open to:

1. All local authorities in Wales
2. Local authority maintained schools in Wales that have at least one [*Service child](#) enrolled.

Up to £1,000 grant

Open to:

1. All local authorities in Wales
2. Local authority maintained schools in Wales that have at least one [*Service child](#) enrolled and have achieved their [Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru](#) Bronze status.

Essential criteria

Up to £500 grant:

1. Service children data must have been submitted to SSCE Cymru or directly to the local authority during the 2026/27 academic year. (N/A to local authorities). Click [here](#) to submit school data to SSCE Cymru.
2. The school / local authority has met with their [SSCE Cymru School Liaison Officer](#) for an informal meeting in the 2026/27 academic year. Contact SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk to arrange a meeting.

Up to £1,000 grant:

1. Service children data must have been submitted to SSCE Cymru or directly to the local authority during the 2026/27 academic year. (N/A to local authorities). Click [here](#) to submit school data to SSCE Cymru.
2. The school holds a valid [Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru](#) status. (N/A to local authorities).

Priorities

The priority themes for 2026/27 are:

- Academic support
- Wellbeing support
- Service children voice.

Applications for other types of projects will be considered but projects linked to **one or more** of the above themes will be prioritised.

Applicants are encouraged to consider:

- The needs of their Service children
- Local authority and/or school collaboration
- How good practice can be shared
- Sustainability and embedding good practice
- Ways to monitor and measure the impact
- How the project links to [Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru](#).

Piloting projects through this funding programme will enable schools and local authorities to gather evidence on the impact of activities, which may support future applications to other [grant funding streams](#).

Funding ideas and support

To ensure the school / local authority has a good understanding of the experiences and needs of Service children in education in Wales, it is **recommended** that applicants complete the [SSCE Cymru e-learning](#).

Projects could include:

- Coordinated projects
- Staffing time
- Courses/training
- Resources
- Outsourced projects/packages.

Applicants should use the [SSCE Cymru funding advice](#) document for support with preparing and submitting an application for funding. See **Annex 1** of the funding advice document for further information on funding/project ideas.

Month of the Military Child grant

Schools and local authorities in Wales can apply for up to £500 to deliver activities and celebrations during Month of Military Child in April 2027.

Eligibility

The Month of the Military Child grant is open to:

1. All local authorities in Wales
2. Local authority maintained schools in Wales that have at least one [*Service child](#) enrolled.

Essential criteria

1. Service children data must have been submitted to SSCE Cymru or directly to the local authority during the 2026/27 academic year. (N/A to local authorities). Click [here](#) to submit school data to SSCE Cymru.
2. The school / local authority has met with their [SSCE Cymru School Liaison Officer](#) for an informal meeting in the 2026/27 academic year. Contact SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk to arrange a meeting.

Priorities

Applicants are encouraged to consider:

- The needs of their Service children
- Local authority and/or school collaboration
- How good practice can be shared
- Ways to monitor and measure the impact
- How the project links to [Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru](#).

Funding ideas and support

To ensure the school / local authority has a good understanding of the experiences and needs of Service children in education in Wales, it is **recommended** that applicants complete the [SSCE Cymru e-learning](#).

See the SSCE Cymru [Month of the Military Child webpage](#) for ideas details within the [Ideas of how schools can get involved](#) document and [examples of how schools have celebrated in previous years](#).

Intervention grant

Schools in Wales can apply for up to £500 to provide short-term, targeted support for an individual Service child or a small number of Service children to help address immediate barriers to learning, wellbeing, and engagement due to the impact of the Armed Forces Lifestyle.

SSCE Cymru can also assist with exploring options for long-term support options.

Applications can be submitted at any time throughout the academic year.

Schools must contact [SSCE Cymru](#) to discuss the needs of the Service child/ren and determine if this funding is appropriate before accessing the application form.

Eligibility

The intervention grant is open to:

1. Local authority maintained schools in Wales.

Essential criteria

1. Service children data must have been submitted to SSCE Cymru or directly to the local authority during the 2026/27 academic year. Click [here](#) to submit school data to SSCE Cymru.
2. The Service child/ren involved in this intervention meet the Welsh Government definition of a [Service child](#).
3. The school has met with their [SSCE Cymru School Liaison Officer](#) to discuss the needs of the Service child/ren. Contact SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk to arrange a meeting.
4. The needs of the Service child/ren involved in this intervention must be directly linked to the impact of their Armed Forces lifestyle which are creating an immediate barrier to learning, wellbeing or engagement.

Priorities

Applicants are encouraged to consider:

- How needs of their Service child/ren involved in this intervention are linked to their experiences of being part of an Armed Forces family. E.g. mobility, separation.
- How good practice can be shared
- Sustainability and embedding support for the Service child/ren involved in the intervention
- Ways to monitor and measure the impact.

Funding ideas and support

To ensure the school has a good understanding of the experiences and needs of Service children in education in Wales, it is **recommended** that applicants complete the [SSCE Cymru e-learning](#).

Interventions could include:

- Staffing time to deliver academic support interventions / subject catch-up sessions
- Staffing time to deliver pastoral / wellbeing / mental health support sessions
- Outsourced intervention support
- Access to enrichment / extra-curricular activities.

The SSCE Cymru School Liaison Officer can discuss intervention ideas and support opportunities with the school. The SSCE Cymru team may be able to identify alternative avenues of funding / support, if required, and can assist with accessing this. Contact SSCECymru@wlg.gov.uk to arrange a meeting.

Timeline / deadlines

Grant:	Application deadline:	Outcome received by:
Small project grants (round 1)	9 th October 2026	23 rd October 2026
Small project grants (round 2)	11 th December 2026	25 th December 2026
Month of the Military Child grant	12 th February 2027	26 th February 2027
Intervention grant	Anytime up to 30 th June 2027	Within 14 days of submission

Application review process

Grant funding will NOT be awarded for projects / interventions that should be funded by core school and/or local authority budgets.

Funding panel: All applications will be reviewed by SSCE Cymru using a scoring matrix. If required, the team will seek input / advice from local authorities and/or Welsh Government.

Small project grants and Month of the Military Child grant

The funding panel will prioritise awarding grants for new initiatives that embed support for Service children. When reviewing applications, the following will be considered:

1. Has the school submitted Service children data in the 2026/27 academic year?
2. Has the school / local authority engaged with SSCE Cymru prior to submitting the application?
3. Has the school achieved their Bronze AFFS Cymru status?
4. Has the school / local authority completed the SSCE Cymru e-learning?
5. Does the project meet one of more of the 2026/27 priority themes?
6. Has the school / local authority outlined how they identified the need for this project?
7. Are the project plans clear and realistic and targeted at supporting Service children?

8. Is the breakdown of costs clear and realistic and does the application demonstrate value for money?
9. Are the plans to measure the impact clear and realistic?
10. Does the project align with the SSCE Cymru mission?

NOTE: some of these criteria are essential – see the relevant grant section above for further details.

Projects that will be treated less favourably include those that are not targeted specifically at supporting Service children. E.g. general school resources, general staff training.

Intervention grant

When reviewing the applications, the following will be considered:

1. Has the school submitted Service children data in the 2026/27 academic year?*
2. Has the school / local authority engaged with SSCE Cymru prior to submitting the application?*
3. Has the school / local authority completed the SSCE Cymru e-learning?
4. Are the needs of the Service child/ren directly linked to the impact of their Armed Forces lifestyle?*
5. Has the school outlined how they identified the need for this intervention?*
6. Are the intervention plans clear and realistic and targeted at supporting the Service child/ren?*
7. Is the breakdown of costs clear and realistic and does the application demonstrate value for money?*
8. Are the plans to measure the impact clear and realistic?*
9. Has the school outlined plans to ensure the sustainability of intervention impact?*
10. Does the project align with the SSCE Cymru mission?*

**Essential criteria.*

Feedback

All unsuccessful applicants are offered a meeting with their SSCE Cymru School Liaison Officer who can provide detailed feedback and advice to support with future funding applications.

Reporting process

For successful applicants, using the template provided, a short impact statement, with supporting images (if appropriate), is required to be completed within one month of the project end date.

Grant:	Word count of impact statement:
Small project grant – up to £500	200-300 words
Small project grant – up to £1,000	400-500 words
Month of the Military Child grant	200-300 words
Intervention grant	400-500 words

An invoice for the project total costs (as stipulated in the application) should be sent to the WLGA along with the impact report. Invoices will be paid on project completion.

Information, data and evidence arising from the projects will help to inform SSCE Cymru activity priorities, and the Welsh Government's policies regarding Service children.

Definition of a Service child

All grant funding awarded through any of the above grants is to specifically support the Service children who meet the following definition.

***Welsh Government definition of a Service child:**

A Service child is a child whose parent(s) or carer(s) with parental responsibility who:

- **Currently serves** in the HM Regular or Reserve Armed Forces – Royal Navy or Royal Marines, British Army, or Royal Air Force,
- **Previously served** in the Armed Forces and left within the past six years,
- **Died while serving** in the Armed Forces, and the child receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.

Terms and Conditions

On submission of the online application form, applicants will be asked to confirm the following:

- I/we have read and understand the details outlined in the 'SSCE-WF (2026-27) - guidance and overview' document.
- If successful I/we will spend the funding as indicated in this funding application.
- I/we understand that any funding secured through the SSCE-WF programme is a one-off funding allocation and not seen as a commitment for future funding from SSCE Cymru / the WLGA or Welsh Government.
- If successful I/we agree to submit the impact report within one month of project / intervention end date.
- If successful I/we agree for details of this project to be shared, when appropriate, as good practice.
- I/we am aware that the information shared within this application may be shared with the local authority and/or Welsh Government. (Intervention grant only).