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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



MONTHLY BULLETIN

APRIL 2026



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Message from the SSCE Cymru team...

"We hope you all enjoy a restful Easter break and some much-needed time to recharge. When schools return, the SSCE Cymru team will be excited to welcome April and celebrate international Month of the Military Child. It's a special moment each year to recognise the children and young people with a parent or loved one serving in the Armed Forces.

With global military activity continuing to affect families across the world, Month of the Military Child offers space to reflect on the adaptability and strength shown by Service children. It's also a chance to celebrate them, their achievements, their contributions to school life, and the unique experiences they bring to their communities.

Throughout April, we encourage schools to create opportunities for Service children to share their stories and take part in activities that highlight their identity. Visit our [Month of the Military Child](#) webpage for ideas, and please tag us in your celebrations so we can give you a BIG shout out. Let's wear purple and party!"

#MotMCCymru #SSCECymru



Millie
Programme
Manager



Jo
Participation
Lead Officer



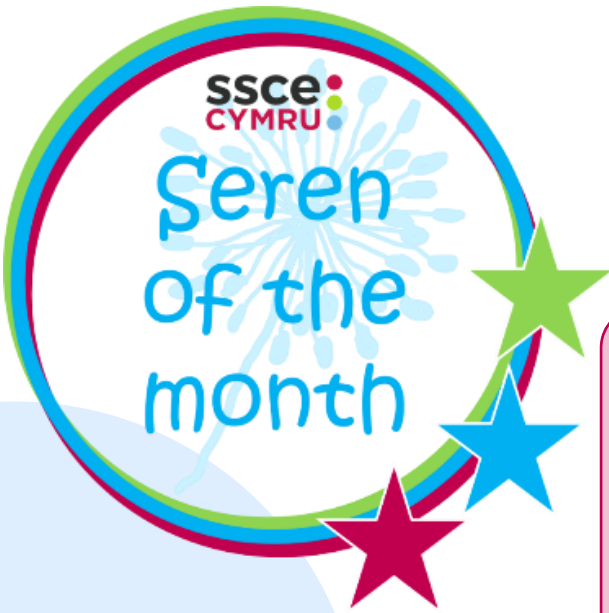
Yasmin
School Liaison
Officer



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.

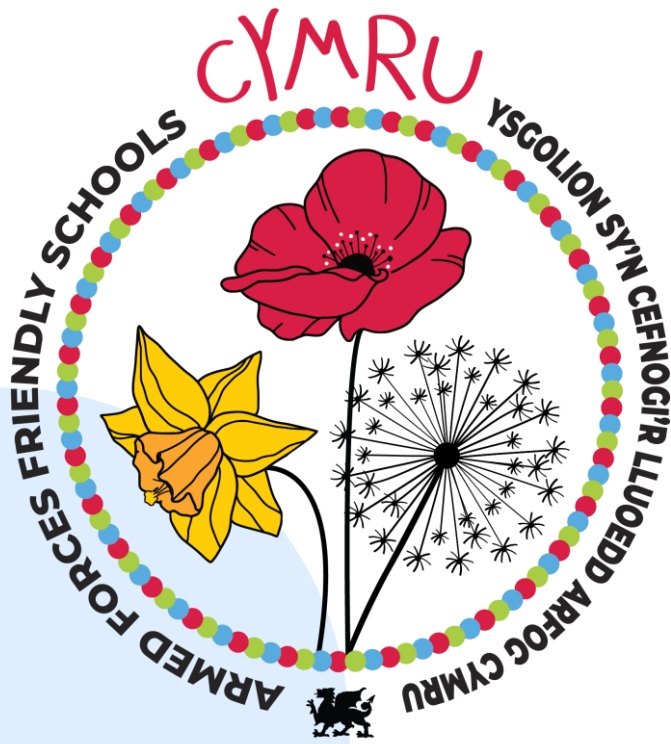
Seren of the month – April 2026

For April, the Seren of the Month is awarded to ALL the incredible Service children in education across Wales, with a special mention to those who took part in the recent Service Pupil Promise events for Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot local authorities. The Service Pupil Promise is an initiative designed to celebrate, support and empower Armed Forces connected children and young people by giving them a direct voice in shaping the support they receive from schools and local authorities. We heard fantastic contributions from so many of you, including Jaxon and Paislee (Tonnau Primary School), Nyla (Ysgol Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd), Faith, Ava Grace and Naveah (Llangatwg Community School), Monica (Brynteg Comprehensive School), Nathaniel (Pencoed Comprehensive School), and Annabelle (Coety Primary School), to name just a few! The insights shared at these events are helping us build a clear picture of the support currently in place across schools and local authorities, what is working well, and what you would like to see more of in the future. Thank you for working with us. By sharing your lived experiences, you enable us to continue advocating on your behalf, highlighting the excellent practice already happening in many schools and ensuring we work together to deliver on the promises made to you.

Service children in Wales

[i Click here for further information about the SSCE Cymru Seren of the month](#)





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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: Cardinal Newman Catholic School (Rhondda Cynon Taf)

Bronze: Priory C.i.W School (Powys)

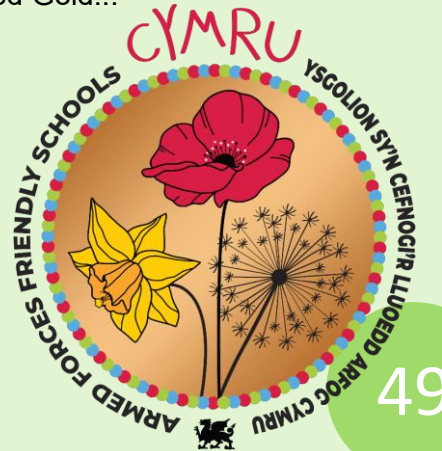
Bronze: Willowtown Primary School (Blaenau-Gwent)

Silver: Waldo Williams (Pembrokeshire)

Silver: Ysgol Golwyg Pen y Fan (Powys)

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

So far, 49 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 49 have achieved Bronze, 15 have achieved Silver and 8 have achieved Gold!!!




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

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.




**Bridgend Service
Pupil Promise**



Neath Port Talbot Service Pupil Promise



**Monmouthshire County Council
named Little Troopers fundraiser
of the month**



**Waldo Williams Primary School
Service children bake sale**



**Priory CIW School Military
Engagement Team session**

SSCE Cymru e-learning

In April 2024, SSCE Cymru launched our highly anticipated 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 Armed Forces Festivals held across Wales at the end of 2025.

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



SSCE Cymru resources

Supporting children in times of conflict

SSCE Cymru has a webpage dedicated to providing resources relevant to supporting children and young people during times of conflict.

Although some of the resources refer to a specific conflict, many of the resource can be applied to other conflicts. Times of conflict and crisis affect many families, Service and civilian, and a school community plays a vital part in ensuring our families feel safe and supported during a potentially challenging time.

Some of the resources included on the webpage include:

- [SSCE Cymru: Recommended resources Padlet](#)
- [UNICEF: How to talk to your children about conflict and war](#)
- [Childline: Worries about the world](#)
- [Save the Children: How to talk to children about war](#)
- [Barnardos: Talking to children about war](#)
- [The British Psychological Society: Supporting children to manage anxiety over war, conflict and crises](#)
- [Place2Be: Talking to children and young people about war and conflict](#)



Mis y Plentyn Milwrol

Month of the Military Child




Ebrill/April | #MotMCCymru

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.

Ways for schools to get involved...

- Understand
- Engage
- Celebrate

 See further
information
here

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CYNORTHWYO PLANT MILWYR
YN YSGOLION CYMRU

Mis y Plentyn Milwrol

Month of the Military Child



Ebrill/April | #MotMCCymru

Here are some examples of how schools and local authorities across Wales celebrated Month of the Military Child in 2025!
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-cymru.gov.uk).



Click here to see details of #MotMCCymru activities



Service children's songs

To celebrate Month of the Military Child, SSCE Cymru are pleased to launch five songs, written by Service children across Wales in collaboration with songwriter practitioner, Otto Aday, from Never Such Innocence. The songs, which were created during the SSCE Cymru Armed Forces Festivals, shine a light on their thoughts, feelings and lived experiences of Service life. These powerful pieces capture pride, resilience, connection and the realities of growing up in a Service family in their own voices 🎵



Mis y Plentyn Milwrol

Month of the Military Child



Ebrill/April | #MotMCCymru



Little Troopers



Virtual workshops

Little Troopers have created three 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.

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 SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk to request a **FREE** set of books for your school.



Mis y Plentyn
Milwrol

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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.



'Purple up' day!!!

Friday 24th April is the day to 'Purple up' for Month of the Military Child!

- 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



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Month of the
Military Child

Ebrill/April | #MotMCCymru



Month of the Military Child badges!!!

We have a stock of Month of the Military Child purple badges, available in both Welsh and English.

If you'd like some FREE badges for yourself, colleagues and Service children at your school, please let us how many of each language you'd like, and we will get them over to you in time to wear throughout April.

Contact SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk to request badges



Funding...


Welsh Government funding

In 2026/27, the Welsh Government Education Directorate are providing funding for the full SSCE Cymru team (Programme Manager, School Liaison Officers and Participation Lead Officer). Funding will continue to be available to schools and local authorities in Wales through the Case Management support programme and a small grant scheme. Full details to be confirmed in September 2026.



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 26th March 09:00-10:00
Tuesday 14th April 15:30-16:30
Wednesday 22nd April 09:00-10:00

 [See further information here](#)

Funding...

Armed Forces Education Trust

The Collective Grants programme are happy to consider applications across a spectrum from small grants in the range of £1,000 to £5,000, to much bigger grants designed to support larger groups of Service children.

Priorities for this year are:

- Reduce the negative impact of mobility and deployment on learning.
- Support Service children with additional educational needs.
- Enable smooth transitions between schools and education systems.
- Work with schools and communities to support Service children in improving their educational outcomes.



See further information here

DEADLINE:
8th 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.

Service Pupil Support programme 2027

The MODs Service Pupil Support (SPS) programme will award grants 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.

NOTE: Schools are encouraged to work collaboratively and apply in a cluster.



See further information here

Project themes for 2027 are:

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

DEADLINE:
30th
September