

MONTHLY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2026



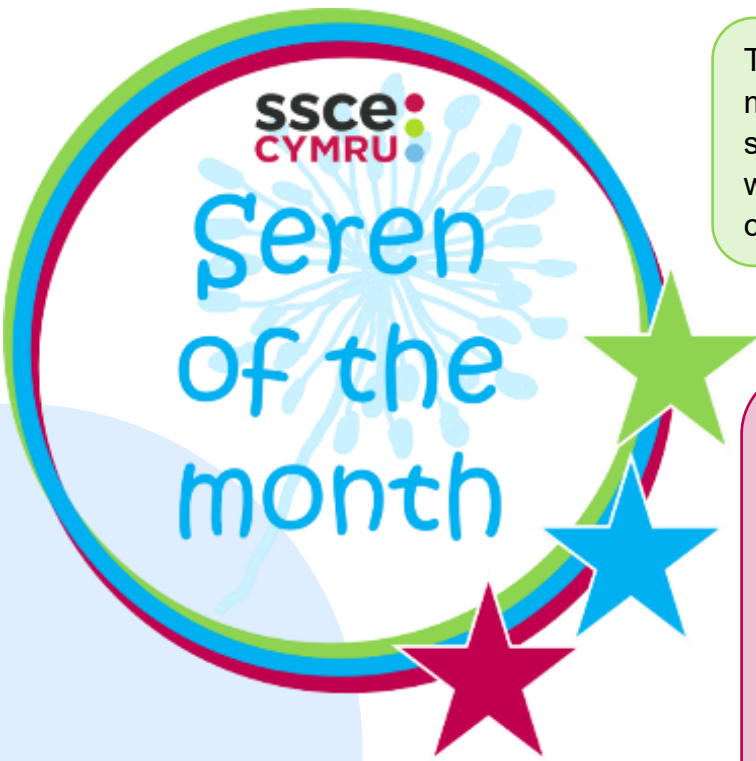
Message from the SSCE Cymru team

"September has been a busy and exciting month. We've enjoyed reconnecting with familiar schools and meeting new contacts across Wales. The positive engagement has been wonderful, and we hope it continues throughout the academic year."

Members of the SSCE Cymru team will be at the National Education Show in Cardiff on Friday 2nd October. Please visit our stand to learn more about our programme and how we can support schools with Service children. If you already know us, do stop by for a chat, it's always lovely to see you in person.

Thank you again for your continued support of Service children in education across Wales. For questions or further information, please contact our team at 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 – October 2026

As the Service Children School Champion at Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan, Amanda Hyett works closely with the Vulnerable Groups Lead, Ebony Johnson and external agencies to support pupils. SSCE Cymru is proud to celebrate Amanda's commitment and dedication. Amanda supports more than 40 Service children across both school sites, helping them feel settled, valued and celebrated. Her work with pupils, staff and families contributed to the school receiving the SSCE Cymru Armed Forces Friendly School Silver status in Summer 2026, while ensuring grant funding has supported pupil wellbeing. Amanda also supports Armed Forces connected pupils across the wider school cluster, ensuring local schools are included in relevant events and activities. During Month of the Military Child, Amanda co-ordinated a Purple Up celebration across Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan. A disco, purple-themed artwork, ice creams and face painting brought Service children and families together, creating lasting memories while strengthening wellbeing, resilience, belonging and engagement with school life. Congratulations, Amanda, and thank you for your dedication to Service children and their families. You truly deserve to be recognised as SSCE Cymru's Seren of the Month.



Amanda Hyett
Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan



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.

Congratulations to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. So far, 52 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 52 have achieved Bronze, 18 have achieved Silver and 10 have achieved Gold!!!



Service children data collection 2026/27

SSCE Cymru are supporting local authorities to collect *Service children data this year. 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.

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.

DEADLINE:
31st Oct

Click here
to submit
your data

New Welsh Government definition of a *Service child (from April 2026):

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.

SSCE Cymru also encourages schools to consider identifying children and young people who are connected to the Armed Forces.

NOTE: Please also let us know if you DO NOT have any Service children currently enrolled at your school.

Upcoming events

**DO YOU WORK WITH
CHILDREN FROM
ARMED FORCES FAMILIES?**

YOUTH/SOCIAL/COMMUNITY WORK
SCHOOLS • NHS • SPORTS CLUBS
LOCAL AUTHORITIES
ACTIVITY CENTRES

Tell us what works!

Service Children's Progression
ALLIANCE
IMPACT CENTRE

 **IMPACT CENTRE LISTENING TOUR
WALES** | 15/10/2026 BRECON

FIND OUT MORE & BOOK AT
scipalliance.org/events

 **CAN'T MAKE IT?**
Other ways to tell us
what you think here

University of Winchester ethics approved: HSSE16208

Service Children's Progression
ALLIANCE

**SCiP Alliance
Conference 2026**

 18th Nov 26
YORK
10 YEARS IN
PARTNERSHIP

This year's conference will focus on the value of partnerships - exploring our shared achievements and how we can work together to accomplish more for children from Armed Forces families.

Remembrance 2026



11th November 2026

Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life.

SSCE Cymru digital wall of Remembrance



SSCE Cymru invites you to share with us **'What Remembrance means to you'**.

This year, for Remembrance, SSCE Cymru would like to create a digital wall of Remembrance giving Service children, their peers and school staff the chance to share what Remembrance means to them.

Click [here](#) for the template



Funding

Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund (SSCE-WF)

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 for Service children who meet the Welsh Government's definition of a Service child. There are three grants available.

Small project grants

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

Up to £500 projects – open to all local authorities and local authority maintained schools in Wales.

Up to £1,000 projects – open to all local authorities in Wales and local authority maintained schools in Wales that hold a valid Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status.

Priority themes:

- Academic support
- Wellbeing support
- Service children voice.

Application deadlines:

Round 1: 9th October 2026

Round 2: 11th December 2026

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.

Application deadline:

12th February 2027

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.

Applications can be submitted at any time throughout the academic year and will be reviewed within 14 days of submission.

Funding

NEW SSCE-WF good practice examples

This document provides a range of examples of grants awarded through the *Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund* and the impact of those projects.

[Available 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.



[See further information 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 1st October 09:00-10:00
Tuesday 27th October 15:30-16:30



[See further information here](#)