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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU

MONTHLY BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2026

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Message from the SSCE Cymru team

"Welcome back! We hope you had a restful summer and are ready for the new academic year this autumn.

A special croeso/welcome to any new Service children, young people, and families who have recently moved to Wales. We know how challenging starting a new school can be for Service children and their families, so school staff may wish to highlight any clubs or support networks available for Armed Forces connected pupils. And if your school has an Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status, be sure to let any new arrivals know that there is a designated staff member already in place to offer tailored support.

As the term begins, to help any new pupils manage this transition, schools may find it helpful to share links to our Service Children's Experiences films, hearing from our ambassadors can offer reassurance and a sense of belonging. Or additionally other useful links for recommended resources are available on the SSCE Cymru Padlet.

SSCE Cymru will continue supporting schools with Service children throughout this academic year. For advice, resources, or guidance, please contact us at SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk."

Millie
Programme Manager

Jo
Participation Lead Officer

Yasmin
School Liaison Officer

Cara
School Liaison Officer

Becca
School Liaison Officer

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Seren of the month

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 – September 2026

Captain Williams consistently demonstrates kindness, professionalism and a strong commitment to supporting Service children in the Swansea and Neath Port Talbot area.

Captain Williams is a huge advocate for SSCE Cymru, he continually goes above and beyond to build positive relationships with schools, local authorities and community partners, ensuring that the needs of Service children remain a priority.

His dedication has been particularly evident through his support of schools in Neath Port Talbot, especially his work with Baglan Primary School, where his commitment has helped strengthen connections and create valuable opportunities for their Little Troopers club.

Captain Williams also played a key role in the success of the Swansea Armed Forces Festival, working behind the scenes and through effective partnership working to help deliver a memorable and impactful event for the Service children in Swansea.

His willingness to help, positive attitude, and genuine passion for making a difference show the values of collaboration and support.

Diolch yn fawr, Huw, and congratulations on being our Seren of the Month.

Captain Huw Williams
157 (Welsh) Regt RLC

Click here for further information about the SSCE Cymru Seren of the month

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: Porthcawl Comprehensive School (Bridgend)
Gold: Cwmclydach Primary School (Rhondda Cynon Taf)

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!!!

52 18 10

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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.

SSCE Cymru at the National Armed Forced Day

Neath Port Talbot Schools Service children Festival

Launch of the Neath Port Talbot Service Pupil Promise and Baglan Primary celebrate AFFS Cymru Gold renewal

Ysgol Bae Baglan pupils climb Pen y Fan for Help for Heroes

Never Such Innocence Month of the Military Child 2026 Competition Celebration

Click here to see all journal entries on the SSCE Cymru website

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.

DEADLINE: 31st Jan

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.

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.

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Click here to use the templates within SSCE Cymru's Tool 4 to help gather and collate this data

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Never Such Innocence workshops

Never Such Innocence are planning another workshop trip to Wales for either *Conversation on Conflict* or *Voices of Armed Forces Children* in October 2026.

Voices of Armed Forces Children Programme – This project explores the experiences of military children through art and poetry. The theme for 2027 will be announced in the new academic year.

Conversation on Conflict: Through My Eyes This project gives young people a platform to share their perspectives on global conflict through poetry, art, and film.

If your school is interested in being a part of this conversation, please contact hcd@neversuchinnocence.com

Upcoming events

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Click here for further information about all upcoming events

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Upcoming events

Remembrance 2026

11th November 2026
Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Click here to see the SSCE Cymru Remembrance page for resources and examples of how schools have commemorated

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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.

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Click here to see further information about the SSCE-WF grants

Ariennir gan Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by Welsh Government

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Funding

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.

DEADLINE: 30th September

Project themes for 2027 are:
- Closing the gap.
- Support for service pupils with ALN.
- Mobility, deployment and separation.
- Low numbers of service pupils.

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.

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:

Monday 7th September 15:30-16:30
Wednesday 23rd September 09:00-10:00

See further information here

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