

SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN IN OXFORDSHIRE



*****THE MUST ATTEND OCC EVENT OF 2022!*****

Understanding the needs of UK Armed Forces Service children

FREE Conference school staff and leaders

Defence Academy, Shrivenham—Friday 8th July 0900-1530hrs



We are very lucky to have acquired the prestigious Defence Academy at Shrivenham to host Oxfordshire's second conference for school leaders and governors, as well as those responsible for supporting education across Oxfordshire.

By attending the event, delegates will consider the question: *"What more can I do in my role to further embed the intent of the Armed Forces Covenant so that our Service children thrive?"*

With a range of national figures in Service children's education speaking, a host of VIPs, free resources and feedback from a Service pupil voice event, the day promises to be both informative and memorable: a 'must-attend' for any school with Service children on their roll. We will also be launching a school improvement initiative for 2022/23: *The Festival of Friends*.

Book now to avoid disappointment:

Website: www.oxfordshireschoolscpd.org.uk Course code: OPL/22/014

Direct link [here](#)



26.4.22 The first RAF Falcons drop of the season enjoyed by pupils of Gateway Primary during the MoTMC.

Important diary dates:

- 22.6.22
Service children's Voice event
- 8.7.22
Service children's Conference for practitioners
- Autumn 2022
Launch of schools' project *Festival of Friends*
- TBC Autumn term Service children's briefing for Headteachers

Did you know?

- The Defence Academy of the United Kingdom provides higher education for personnel in the British Armed Forces, Civil Service, other government departments and service personnel from other nations.
- Oxfordshire has a large military presence with more than 11,747 military personnel (2019) and an estimated 3,500 families living and working in the county.



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'Our Military Children: Resilient and Bloom Everywhere the Winds Carry Them'

As part of its work during the MoTMC, St John the Evangelist CE Primary School's Service Pupils Advocate, Michelle McGarry, supported Service children to create this stunning display. Each dandelion is made from a child's fingerprint.

Michelle runs the school's Eagles Club, a lunchtime club for Service pupils.

HELP PLEASE...SCiP Alliance's community consultation – Deadline CoP 19th June

The SCiP Alliance is a community of all those working to help Armed Forces children of all ages thrive. Please **share your views** to inform the Alliance's priorities as it develops its 2022-25 strategy together.

The SCiP Alliance Management Group comprises diverse perspectives from across the UK and beyond, including serving and ex-Armed Forces personnel, families and children, schools, colleges, universities, local authorities, charities, funders, governments and other agencies. It is leading the 2022 community consultation to hear from the whole sector about your priorities for supporting Armed Forces children and young people, as well as to reflect on how the Alliance can enhance its support to you.

Please take a few minutes to complete the online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SCiPAlliance2022>

It wants to hear from everyone with a stake in helping Service children thrive, whatever your role or organisation. The 2018 consultation told the Alliance that people wanted to be better connected: with each other, with evidence and with support. Now it wants to know how well it has helped you do that, if those priorities remain, and how it might build on what has achieved together so far.

April's Month of the Military Child: Carterton College case study—Chris Hart, Headteacher

Students and staff at the college participated in a number of events during the last week of April celebrating the Month of the Military Child. A mixture of awareness raising activities and opportunities for celebration and enrichment took place in a busy week.

Throughout the week, Tutor Periods were devoted to raising awareness for our non-service students of the unique challenges and opportunities our Service children encounter. Linking to our school values of kindness and resilience, we reflected on the challenges of separation and postings as well as relocating to new parts of the country and changing schools. Students all had a chance to write a 'bluey' which really brought the importance - and sometimes the challenge - of communication with loved ones away from home.

A number of our service students went to RAF Brize Norton to join students from other local schools to watch the RAF Falcons display on the Tuesday, and the whole school gathered together to watch them drop onto the school field on Wednesday lunchtime. Service family members able to attend joined us for afternoon tea.

Wednesday was our 'purple day'. We invited all our cadets to wear their uniforms to school and all students received a purple lapel badge. We chose to give them a Queen's Diamond Jubilee commemorative badge which we thought would make a nice souvenir. Donations were invited from students and parents for Jon Eggings Trust who do fabulous work with our students, including a trip to Rolls Royce, Bristol on Thursday.

Aware that schooling can be disrupted for some Service students, we prioritise support for them through our life skills enrichment programme; on Thursday a number of Service students from Years 7 - 11 received basic First Aid Training in our Service student hub; 'The Hangar'.

Our MOTMC activities were co-ordinated by Mrs Hannah Owen, Service Pupil Premium Lead, supported by staff and our Service Student Ambassadors, who were described in our recent OFSTED reports as 'impressive' student leaders.



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