



Supporting Children from Military Families Toolkit for Schools: 2022



Context: Armed Forces children in Oxfordshire

During the academic year 2020-2021 there were 3043 children and young people from a military background, Service children, on roll in maintained schools and academies within Oxfordshire entitled to the Service Pupil Premium (SPP).

21% of Royal Air Force personnel are based in Oxfordshire.

During 2020-2021, 199 schools in Oxfordshire had at least one Service pupil on roll entitled to the SPP. In addition, there were a group of pupils in alternative provision and not on a school roll who were entitled to the SPP. There were 12 schools in Oxfordshire with over 25% of their cohort entitled to the SPP. Many Oxfordshire schools have a small number of Service pupils who are entitled to the SPP - 87 schools had only 1, 2 or 3 Service pupils on roll during 2020-2021.

This Toolkit is intended to support all Oxfordshire schools to access advice and support for Service children so that they are supported in overcoming Service-related challenges to thrive at school. The SPP sits alongside the Pupil Premium (PP) grant for pupils from a disadvantaged background and in most schools the PP coordinator will lead on provision for these pupils. Information on how the school is supporting Service pupils should be included in the school's SPP strategy. This should be shared online and monitored by governors.

During the 2021-2022 financial year, the SPP of £310 per pupil is given to schools for children and young people from a Service family background who are in Reception to Year 11. The SPP should be primarily used to provide pastoral support for Service pupils.



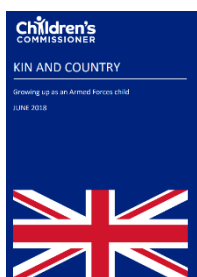
Key recent reports

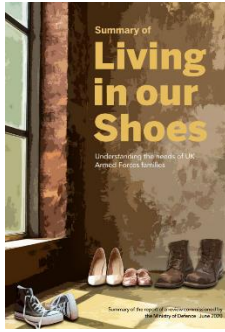
'Kin and Country: Growing up as an Armed Forces child'

(Children's Commissioner, June 2018)

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/KIN-AND-COUNTRY-Growing-up-as-an-Armed-Forces-child.pdf>

'The majority of service children we spoke to were happy, resilient and proud that their parents were serving in the Armed Forces. However, it is clear that a number of changes should be made to help children growing up in service families with the unique challenges they face.'





‘Summary of Living in our Shoes, Understanding the needs of UK Armed Forces families.’ (Ministry of Defence, June 2020)

In particular, the 31 recommendations in Chapter 4, ‘Growing up in the Military’ *‘The impact of Service life on children and young people proved to be one of the most sensitive issues and one which has led to the largest number of recommendations for change. In this Summary, we refer briefly to all of the issues explored in the main report and list our recommendations.’*

 **GOV.UK guidance for schools**

<https://www.gov.uk/topic/defence-armed-forces/support-services-military-defence-personnel-families>

General support services for military and defence personnel and their families

[DCS and AFFS forms and information - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/forms)

Information and forms relating to the MoD’s Armed Forces Families & Safeguarding (AFFS), the Children’s Education Advisory Service (CEAS) and Defence Children’s Services (previously named Directorate for Children and Young People (DCYP))

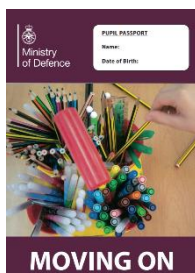
Children’s Education Advisory Service (CEAS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-childrens-education-advisory-service-ceas>

CEAS provides advice, support and guidance on the educational well-being of the children and young people belonging to families in all 3 services and eligible MOD civilians who are based overseas. All advice given is professional, child-centred and focuses on the best interests of the individual.

In order to formally notify CEAS that a child/young person has a Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), Service Personnel **must** complete a CEAS support application form and return this form to CEAS. An Army General Administrative Instruction (AGAI 108) **mandates** that Service personnel in the Army identify their child with CEAS if they have SEND. Service personnel in the RAF, RN, Marines are **strongly recommended** to identify their child with CEAS if they have SEND (Joint Service Publication documents JSP 820 and 770).

ALL Service personnel are expected to register any children with additional needs or SEND if they are in receipt of an Overseas Assignment Order.



MoD’s Moving On pupil passport
[Pupil Passport \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

and
Families on the Move
(The Transition Experience)

[20170602-On the Move Leaflet-Final-003.pdf \(nff.org.uk\)](https://nff.org.uk)



Education in the UK for Service Children

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-in-the-uk-for-service-children>

Information about aspects of education for Service children in the UK. This will vary depending on where they live or may move to.

Education Overseas for Service Children

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-overseas-for-service-children>

Guidance on the education provision for Service children overseas can be categorised as Defence Children Services (DCS) Schools and Settings or non-MOD schools' locations.

Service Pupil Premium (SPP)



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium/service-pupil-premium-what-you-need-to-know>



Service personnel with children in state schools in England in reception to year 11 should notify schools of their children's service status to ensure they are recorded **prior** to the next autumn census (first Thursday in October) to qualify for SPP (currently £310 / year). Eligible schools receive this funding so that they can offer **mainly pastoral support** during challenging times and to help mitigate the negative impact on Service children of family mobility or parental deployment.

SPP Guidance materials

MoD (2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium/service-pupil-premium-examples-of-best-practice>

The RAF Families Federation's top seven things parents should know about SPP (2017)

<https://www.scipalliance.org/resources/parents-factsheet-service-pupil-premium>

Army Families Federation's online guidance

<https://aff.org.uk/advice/education-childcare/service-pupil-premium>

Little Troopers' information sheet

<https://www.littletroopers.net/service-pupil-premium-explained>



Royal British Legion's 'Supporting Service children in England' (2018) (Chapter 3)

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/campaigns-policy-and-research/best-practice-guides/support-for-service-children>

A Guide to School Admissions for Service Children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrYAhGO-tRE&list=UUZUGlVUya3TWSHb9sWaVNqA&index=9>

Produced by Forces Connect South-East, this useful video provides background information – for families and schools – on the school admission process in England.

Educational support from Other Organisations and Charities



Service Children in State Schools (SCISS)

<https://www.sciss.org.uk>

Service Children In State Schools (SCISS) is a voluntary affiliated network of state-maintained schools in England that have any number of Service children on roll. It is led by a National Executive Advisory Committee (NEAC) comprising of headteachers; Local Authority officers/advisers; representatives from the three Armed Forces Families Federations and representatives from the Service Children Progression Alliance (SCiP), the DfE and the MOD. It aims to be **the voice of schools**. A comprehensive survey of school staff was undertaken in 2020, leading to a helpful report and summary which is shaping the NEAC's strategic plans over the next three years:

https://www.sciss.org.uk/files/ugd/947f11_01ad5c19ab9c4cd6886a62f647fec0fa.pdf

Service Children In State Schools
National Executive Advisory Committee



The Voice of Schools
Supporting Service Children in England

Voice of Schools Survey Summary
2020 - 2021

Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance

<https://www.scipalliance.org>

Service Children's Progression
 ALLIANCE

The Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance is a partnership of organisations focused on improving outcomes for children from military families. It is hosted by the University of Winchester and supported by the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Its vision is *Thriving lives for Service children*.

In a recent and significant research development, the Alliance has published its **Thriving Lives Toolkit**. Underpinned by rigorous research and thoroughly tested in school, the Toolkit provides schools with a framework of 7 principles through which to reflect on their practice (**self-assessment**) and a 3-tier set of online CPD resources. The resources consist of:



1. An introductory animation.
2. A detailed resource introducing the evidence base, what schools can do to support their Service children and who can help.
3. School case studies.

The Alliance's website also hosts a range of helpful reports and resources, including *A Guide to Teachers' Professional Development (2020)* which contains a comprehensive record of existing provision across the UK at the beginning of 2021. [Service-children-CPD-guide-2020-TF-group-report.pdf](https://www.scipalliance.org/files/ugd/947f11_01ad5c19ab9c4cd6886a62f647fec0fa.pdf) ([scipalliance.org](https://www.scipalliance.org))

Royal British Legion (RBL)

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk>



The country's largest armed forces charity supports members of the British Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families. The RBL resources *Teaching Remembrance* are designed to help teachers to introduce specific themes into the classroom. Although it primarily covers the History and Citizenship curriculum, it can also be used to support literacy and aspects of PSHE and Religious Studies.

www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/schools-and-learning/learning-pack

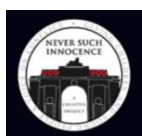
RBL's Military Kids Club (MKC) Heroes

[Military Kids Club](https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/military-kids-club) | [Community](https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/community) | [Royal British Legion](https://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

The Military Kids Club (MKC) Heroes network is a unique pupil voice group for the children and young people of Service personnel and veterans that is supported and facilitated by The Royal British Legion. Members of MKC Heroes are ambassadors and young advocates for Service and veterans' families. Most importantly, they are friends for each other, providing strength and support especially in times of need.

For more information, please contact the MKC Heroes National Coordinator on

mkcheroes@britishlegion.org.uk

**Never Such Innocence**

www.neversuchinnocence.com

A charity that aims to give children and young people across the world a voice on conflict. The charity offers opportunities to reflect on conflict throughout history and today through poetry, art, speech and song. It provides free, online resources; runs an annual competition; and can provide workshops in schools with skilled practitioners.

Little Troopers

<https://www.littletroopers.net>



As a charity, Little Troopers ensures that British Armed Forces children and their families have access to child-focused support, providing fundamental resources and initiatives. It provides schools with a wealth of materials to use with Service children, blogs, Schools Projects, guidance and an online shop.

**Reading Force**

<https://www.readingforce.org.uk>

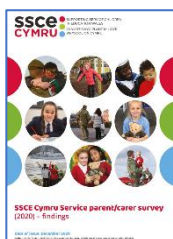
Supports forces and ex-forces families with free reading materials to share. The charity's shared reading initiative encourages families to read, talk, and scrapbook about a book, improving communication and enriching relationships with books and each other – one page at a time.

SSCE Cymru

<https://www.scecymru.co.uk>



Supporting Service Children in Education (SSCE) Cymru is a Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) programme, initially funded by the MOD's Education Support Fund and funded by Welsh Government from 2019. As well as collaborating directly with schools, SSCE Cymru has developed some fantastic guidance and digital resources for schools and families, hosted conferences and stakeholder days, and commissioned research to better understand the needs of Service children in education.



For example, in 2020, SSCE Cymru conducted a survey with parents/carers of Service children. This gave them the opportunity to share their experiences about living in/moving to Wales, the impact their lifestyles have on their children's education, and the support they have received from schools:

[SSCE Cymru parent-carer survey \(2020\) findings \(E\).pdf](#)

**Forces Children's Education – Scotland**

[Forces Children's Education \(forceschildrenseducation.org.uk\)](http://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk)

The Scottish Government, Local Authorities and schools work hard to ensure that moving to Scotland has a positive effect on the educational outcomes of children from Armed Forces families. This website has been created to bring all their efforts together and put the resources that parents and the education professionals who support their children need, together in one place.

Forces Children Scotland

(formerly the Royal Caledonian Education Trust)

<https://forceschildrenscotland.org.uk>



As Scotland's oldest military charity, Forces Children Scotland helps children and young people from serving, reservist and veteran families across Scotland grow in confidence, develop new skills and gain valuable experiences by co-producing impactful projects and services to support mental health and wellbeing, education and learning and putting their unique experiences on the radar of civilian audiences. Its website has some excellent resources, such as its *Teen Talks* leaflet (summarising Service pupil voice views) and a *Teen Talks: Glossary*.

Families Federations:



Army Families Federation <https://aff.org.uk>

The charity's website includes a comprehensive section on Education and Childcare.



RAF Families Federation www.raf-ff.org.uk

The charity's website includes a comprehensive section on Education and Childcare.



Naval Families Federation www.nff.org.uk

The charity's website includes an education section (with its 'Info' tab). An excellent guide for parents and adults supporting children and young people in

times of parental absence is available at: [Parental-Absence-Resource.pdf \(nff.org.uk\)](https://www.nff.org.uk/parental-absence-resource.pdf)

NFF have also produced an extremely helpful pull-out resource for parents, carers and schools called:

Making sense of the Emotional Cycle of Deployment for Children: Homeport Winter 2016 [lo res pdf for web take 2.pdf \(nff.org.uk\)](https://www.nff.org.uk/homeport-winter-2016-lo-res-pdf-for-web-take-2.pdf)

RAF Benevolent Fund

In 2021, the Charity published '*Growing Up in the RAF: the wellbeing of children and young people who have serving parents*'. The report gives a voice to children and young people who are growing up with one or both parents in the RAF. Its insights can:

- help parents, teachers and other professionals better understand the children and young people they are supporting, and
- help policymakers and service providers to develop better policies and services, to support the wellbeing of children and young people.

[2021 Growing up in the RAF report.pdf \(rafbf.org\)](https://www.rafbf.org/2021-growing-up-in-the-raf-report.pdf)



Potential sources of funding

MoD's Education Support Fund (ESF)

Launched in 2011 and subsequently extended by the Secretary of State for Defence, this provides funding to help publicly funded schools, Academies and Free Schools throughout the UK to mitigate the effects of **exceptional mobility** and/or **deployment** of their Service communities; Regular Armed Forces, including Reserves on Full Time commitment. The 2023 scheme is expected to be launched in April/May time. Updated information will appear here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-support-fund-for-schools-with-service-children-grant-application-pack>



Ministry
of Defence



The Armed Forces Education Trust

<https://armedforceseducation.org>

The Armed Forces Education Trust is a charity working for children and young adults whose education has been compromised or put at risk because of parents' past or current service in the Armed Forces. The Trust awards grants that help to make a difference to young lives, helping improve their educational opportunities or supporting special skills or talents.

Armed Forces Covenant Fund

[Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust](#)



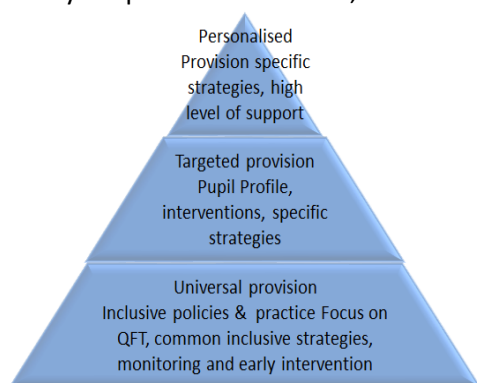
This supports the Armed Forces Covenant through a variety of different funds, some of which can be accessed by schools.

Supporting Emotional Well-Being, Welfare and Behaviour

The SSP funding of £310 per pupil is aimed at supporting social and emotional well-being.

Three-Tier Model

Plan your provision for social, emotional well-being using the 3-tier model.



Do individual children need 1:1 support at the most difficult times?

Do your Service Children need additional support, especially when parents are away?

Consider the needs of Service Children when planning your universal offer.

Well-Being Toolkit

The Oxfordshire Educational Psychology Service's *Well-Being Toolkit* provides an excellent framework for working with Service children.

<https://fisd.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/oxfordshire/directory/service.page?id=BrbWJr4zZko>

Drawing and Talking

Drawing and Talking Therapy training is an experiential, rather than theory-based, training programme designed for anyone working with children, young people or adults who may be suffering from trauma or poor mental health.

<https://drawingandtalking.com>

Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA)

Consider training as ELSAs. They are teaching assistants who have had special training from educational psychologists to support the emotional development of children and young people in school. ELSAs have regular professional supervision from educational psychologists to help them in their work. ELSAs help children and young people learn to understand their emotions and respect the feelings of those around them. They provide the time and space for pupils to think about their personal circumstances and how they manage them.

https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/oxfordshire/fsd/files/elsa_leaflet.pdf

The Behaviour Toolkit

The *Behaviour Toolkit* may provide useful strategies when children are struggling with their mental health, and this is reflected in their behaviour.

<http://www.oxsit.org.uk/toolbox.html>

Diminishing the Difference in Oxfordshire - Directory of Services (2020-2021)

For further information on support services to support well-being:

https://sites.create-cdn.net/sitefiles/31/4/9/314937/OXSIT_Diminishing_Difference_2020-2021.pdf

General Support for Military Families

The Forces Children's Trust (FCT)

<https://www.cobseo.org.uk/members/directory/forces-childrens-trust>

The FCT supports children in need whose father or mother has died or has sustained life threatening injuries whilst serving as a member of the British Armed Forces.

British Forces Broadcasting Service

www.bfbs.com

Forces. Net

<https://www.forces.net>

Hidden Warriors

Providing supportive assistance to families (children and partners) of the UK Armed Forces Veterans Community and, on a case-by-case basis, providing help for non-Veteran families.

[Home - Hidden Warriors CIC](#)

Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Families Association (SSAFA)

UK charity providing life-long support to serving men and women and veterans from the British Armed Forces and their families or dependents.

<https://www.ssafa.org.uk>

British Army

Army Families Federation

<https://aff.org.uk>

British Army Supporting Education

<https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are>

My Daddy/Mummy is a Soldier

The resources below may help during longer periods of separation.

<https://mydaddyisasoldier.webs.com>

My Mummy is a Soldier is also available.

Army HIVE Information Centres

<https://www.army.mod.uk/people/support-well/hive>

The HIVE Information Service provides information on behalf of the chain of command to the Service community and welcomes enquiries from serving personnel, dependants, partners, extended families, and the wider military community including veterans and MOD civilians.

Army Welfare Services

<https://bfgnet.de/support-organisations/army-welfare-service.html>

Royal Air Force

RAF Families Federation

www.raf-ff.org.uk

RAF HIVE

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/serving-families/hive-finder>

The RAF HIVEs Service provides an information and welfare referral service to the Armed Services community, including serving Personnel, their families, veterans, Reservists, and civilians on Station.

RAF Welfare

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/serving-families>

Royal Navy

Naval Families Federation

www.nff.org.uk

Royal Navy local advice and support

www.royalnavy.mod.uk/community-and-support/advice-and-support/local-support

Navy Welfare

<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/careers/navy-life/families>