This information pack has been put together to help better support Service families and

children within your school. It provides an overview of organisations, services, websites, publications, and charities available to support Service families.

Updates from the resources on this information sheet can also be found in the RN Forum – details in the Further Information Resources section below.

For further information please contact RN FPS Information Support at rnrm-wio@royalnavymail.mod.uk.

**SERVICE-RELATED SUPPORT**

**The Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP)** soon to be Defence Children’s Serviceprovides a single Ministry of Defence (MOD) focus for all issues related to service children and young people and the children of MOD UK based civilians and sponsored organisations serving outside of the UK.

 [www.gov.uk/government/groups/directorate-children-and-young-people](http://www.gov.uk/government/groups/directorate-children-and-young-people)

**Service Children’s Education (SCE)** provides schools and education support for children of the UK Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence personnel and MOD sponsored organisations stationed overseas.

SCE is part of the MOD DCYP together with the Children’s Education Advisory Service and has schools in Germany, Cyprus, Belgium, Brunei, Canada, Falkland Islands, Italy, and the Netherlands.

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/service-childrens-education](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/service-childrens-education)

**Children’s Education Advisory Service (CEAS)** is also part of DCYP and provides free and professional educational advice, support and guidance to service parents which may include:

* School admissions and admission appeals in the UK
* Special Educational Needs and Disability/ Additional Needs
* Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) and the Special Educational Needs Addition (SENA)
* Education Overseas for Service children and the MOD Assessment of Supportability Overseas
* Retention of SFA on educational Grounds
* Parental rights and responsibilities

Email: RC-DCS-HQ-CEAS@mod.gov.uk

CEAS helpline: 01980 618244 or 94344 8244

[www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-childrens-education-advisory-service-ceas](http://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-childrens-education-advisory-service-ceas)

**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.

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

**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). The SCiP Alliance’s Mission is to support education practitioners to champion the progression of the children of military personnel, so that they can make informed and confident transitions through further and higher education into thriving adult lives and careers.

<https://www.scipalliance.org/about/information-page>

**SSAFA Forces Additional Needs and Disability Forum (FANDF)** provide families and individuals with an opportunity to discuss ways of ensuring that both children and adults with additional needs and disabilities have access to the best support available.

Tel: 0800 2606767

[www.ssafa.org.uk/get-help/disability-support/additional-needs-and-disability-support](http://www.ssafa.org.uk/get-help/disability-support/additional-needs-and-disability-support)

**A Guide for Service Families – UK Education Systems** is a useful publication showing the differences in education across the UK.

<https://gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/172954/ceas_brochure_lores_spreads.pdf>

**Education Overseas Supportability (EOS)** **Form** has now replaced the Pupil Information Profile for Service Children (PIP) and will be used for Educational Clearances overseas. Please contact CEAS or the individual MOD School during this process for more information.

**Moving Schools – A Parents’ Guide** is useful when moving from one location to another. It is recognised that there are very individual and specific issues that Service children may experience as a result of parental mobility and deployment. If you have particular concerns or would like to discuss a child’s education further, please contact CEAS. The guide is available for download at:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/787792/ADR007943_Moving_Schools_Guide_ONLINE_PDF.pdf>

**Education in Scotland – An Introductory Guide** has been produced by DCYP in conjunction with the

Scottish Government. It is a comprehensive guide to all phases of education, with handy information and advice for families either living in Scotland or moving to Scotland.

 <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741877/20170321-DCYP_Education_in_Scotland-O.pdf>

**The Association of Directors of Education in Scotland** website includes lots of information for Service families and practitioners and is available at

<https://www.ades.scot/ForcesChildren>

**Welcome to Scotland: a guide for service personnel and their families in Scotland (updated 2021)** provides practical information to service personnel and their families on a range of topics including education.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/welcome-scotland-guide-service-personnel-families-scotland-updated-2021/pages/4/>

**Children and young people from service families –** A professional learning resource is designed to support children and young people from families who are in the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force.

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/children-and-young-people-from-service-families-professional-learning-resource/>

**Parentzone Scotland –** contains information about Supporting study, BSL information, Early Years and Gaelic Medium Education.

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>

**Supporting Service Children in Wales (SSCE Cymru)** mission is to provide the best possible educational support to Service children in Wales by working with schools, local authorities, Armed Forces families and support organisation. Resources available include: Toolkits for schools and parents, Films, Digital stories, Newsletters and Case studies etc.

[www.sscecymru.co.uk](http://www.sscecymru.co.uk)

ssce@wlga.gov.uk

**Term Time Absence Advice** has been producedby the MOD to provide advice to Head Teachers, when making decisions on term time absence applications from service families and explains how head teachers can seek further guidance from the MOD when dealing with specific cases.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-term-time-absence-for-children-of-service-personnel-mod-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-term-time-absence-for-children-of-service-personnel-mod-guidance)

**Service Pupil Premium** (SPP) The Department for Education introduced the Service Pupil Premium in April 2011 in recognition of the specific challenges children from service families face and as part of the commitment to delivering the armed forces covenant.

State schools, academies and free schools in England, which have children of service families in school years Reception to Year 11, can receive the SPP funding. It is designed to assist the school in providing the additional support that these children may need and is currently worth £310 per service child who meets the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility criteria:

* one parent is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve)
* they have been registered as a ‘service child’ on the January school census at any point since 2016
* death of a parent whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme

Children must be flagged as Service children ahead of the January school census deadline. Service parents should make the school aware of their status by talking to the head teacher or school admin staff.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium/service-pupil-premium-what-you-need-to-know](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium/service-pupil-premium-what-you-need-to-know)

**Service Pupil Premium Examples of Good Practice Guidance** contains a selection of creative and innovative ways in which both primary and secondary schools have used the available funding to support Service children.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium/service-pupil-premium-examples-of-best-practice](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium/service-pupil-premium-examples-of-best-practice)

**Ministry of Defence Schools** are responsible for the delivery of early years, primary and secondary education at a number of locations across Europe and worldwide. All MOD Schools are subject to Ofsted inspections and high standards are maintained with performance targets linked to national performance in England and Wales.

[www.gov.uk/guidance/education-overseas-for-service-children](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-overseas-for-service-children)

**Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA)** is offered by the MOD to assist with funding a place in boarding school in order to help to provide continuity of education for a child, and to enable the spouse of a Service person to accompany them on assignments.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/745157/20180830-DCYP_CEAS_INFO_02_CEA_BOARDING_CONSIDERATIONS-v2.0s-O.pdf>

DCYP have produced a boarding school finder website for service parents, which may be useful when choosing a boarding school.

<https://boardingschoolfinder.mod.uk/>

**Service Parent’s** **Guide to Boarding Schools** covers all aspects of boarding education, including funding, selecting a school, academic success, extra-curricular opportunities, schools that specialise in art, music or dance, schools for children with special educational needs and disabilities, and sixth-form choices. Copies are available to download online.

[www.serviceschools.co.uk](http://www.serviceschools.co.uk)

**MOD Education Support Fund (ESF)** has been made available to assist publicly funded schools, academies and free schools throughout the UK, to mitigate the effects of exceptional mobility or deployment of their Service communities, Regular and Reserves.

Bidding for the 2022 ESF is now closed but do look out for this year’s information.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-support-fund-for-schools-with-service-children-grant-application-pack](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-support-fund-for-schools-with-service-children-grant-application-pack)

General Enquiries: People-AFFS-ESF-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

**Royal Navy Parents’ Network (RNPN)** the aim of the network is to provide Naval Service parents, both deployed and in the UK, with a support network for advice, views and information on family issues - a one-stop shop for all issues related to parenting for Naval Service parents. Membership is open to all mothers and fathers serving in the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Maritime Reserve and Royal Fleet Auxiliary. The Network also provides the opportunity to meet with other parents within the Service.

Tel: 02392 723711

Email: NAVYNBCP-CoB-PSGPSITRNPN@mod.gov.uk

[www.facebook.com/groups/RoyalNavyparentsnetwork](http://www.facebook.com/groups/NavalServiceparentsnetwork)

**Service Children's Progression Alliance** the SCPA brings people together to improve educational outcomes for military families so that they can make informed and confident transitions through further and higher education into thriving adult lives and careers.

[www.scipalliance.org](http://www.scipalliance.org)

**Armed Forces Bereavement Scholarship Scheme (AFBSS)** provides post 16 education scholarships for children of Service personnel whose death has been attributed to Service from 1990.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/afbss-form-1](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afbss-form-1)

**PRE- SCHOOL & NURSERY**

**Sodexo MOD Childcare Voucher Scheme** has now CLOSED to new entrants, the guidelines state to be eligible to be a member of the scheme you should have had a voucher deduction before the deadline, therefore the last date to join the MOD scheme was 31st August 2018.

The new Government scheme called **Tax Free Childcare**, supports working parents with childcare costs. Childcare vouchers can be used to pay any Ofsted (or equivalent) registered childcare providers, which can include nurseries, childminders, nannies, play schemes, out-of-hours school clubs and holiday camps, as well as certain elements of Independent school fees.

Tel: 0800 328 7411

<https://uk.childcare-vouchers.sodexo.com/>

**Tax Free Childcare** with TFC parents have an online account, the account will be topped up by the Government with £2.00 for every £8.00 contribution from the parents, up to a maximum of £2000 per child per year. Further information is available at the Government TFC website

[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/browse/childcare-parenting/childcare](http://www.gov.uk/browse/childcare-parenting/childcare)

**The Wraparound Childcare Pilot** was announced by the Government on 7th July 2020. The new Wraparound Childcare will offer free childcare for service families, covering before and after-school care during term time, for children aged 4 to 11, easing the burden for service parents. The scheme will further roll out from Jan 21 in Plymouth and Catterick

[www.gov.uk/government/news/free-wraparound-childcare-for-the-armed-forces](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-wraparound-childcare-for-the-armed-forces)

**SCHOOLS**

**Applying for a School Place** applications for preferred schools require proof of permanent address, however there are measures in place under the **Schools Admissions Code** to allow Service families to use the unit address as listed on the assignment order or, if appropriate, a quartering address of the closest Service Families Accommodation where they have been allocated accommodation. The Unit Personnel Office/HR Department may be able to provide a letter confirming posting to the area to support the application.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| England  | [www.gov.uk/schools-admissions/](http://www.gov.uk/schools-admissions/)admissions-criteria |
| Scotland | [www.gov.scot/publications/choosing-school-guide-parents-nov-16/pages/2/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/choosing-school-guide-parents-nov-16/pages/2/) |
| Wales | [www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/school-admissions-code.pdf](http://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/school-admissions-code.pdf) |
| Northern Ireland | [www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/school-admissions-guidance](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/school-admissions-guidance) |

**Appeals** If a child is refused a place at their preferred school The Children's Education Advisory Service can offer guidance and support on admissions and appeals to Service families. The following form can be returned to CEAS to request their support.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dcyp-forms-and-information-sheets/ceas-information-5-school-admissions-and-appeals-england>

[www.gov.uk/schools-admissions/appealing-a-schools-decision](http://www.gov.uk/schools-admissions/appealing-a-schools-decision)

**Boarding Schools** are available across the UK**.**

**Independent Schools Council** provides details of the types of boarding school that cater for different age ranges, different abilities and different interests.

 [www.isc.co.uk](http://www.isc.co.uk)

**State Boarding School Association** provides details of state boarding schools which provide excellent value for money because they are only allowed to charge for accommodation costs and not tuition costs.

[www.stateboarding.org.uk](http://www.stateboarding.org.uk)

**ADULT EDUCATION**

In Scotland the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) with support of the Scottish Government may be able to assist with Higher Education Funding for members of the Armed Forces and their families.

[www.saas.gov.uk/guides/armed-forces](http://www.saas.gov.uk/guides/armed-forces)

**New UCAS guidance for students from a UK Armed Forces background** is available following collaboration between the MOD, UCAS and the Service Children’s Progression (SCiP) Alliance.

The information and advice page for students from a UK Armed Forces background is now live on ucas.com and covers advice for Service children, veterans and spouses/partners of UK Armed Forces personnel.

[www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/individual-needs/students-uk-armed-forces-background](http://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/individual-needs/students-uk-armed-forces-background)

**FURTHER INFORMATION RESOURCES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The Royal Navy Forum | <https://forum.royalnavy.mod.uk/topics> |
| The Naval Families Federation | [www.nff.org.uk/education](http://www.nff.org.uk/education)  |
| Army Hive | <https://www.army.mod.uk/people/support-well/hive/>  |
| The Army Families Federation | [www.aff.org.uk/advice/education-childcare](http://www.aff.org.uk/advice/education-childcare/) |
| Royal Air Force | http://www.raf.mod.uk/serving-families/schooling/ |
| RAF Hive | https://www.raf.mod.uk/serving-families/hive-finder/ |
| Coronavirus (COVID 19) – Education and Childcare | [www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare) |

**MISC**

**Storybook Waves** -is a FREE service that enables members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines to maintain the link with their children by recording a story for them to listen to when a parent is serving away from home.

[www.aggies.org.uk](http://www.aggies.org.uk)

**Reading Force** -allows families whether at home together, or apart because of deployment, training, or distance to read, talk about and share thoughts about the same story. Reading Force is free for all Service families, Reserves, Cadets, and Ex-Forces families and reading books and scrapbooks can be ordered online by parents, pastoral workers, clubs and schools.

[www.readingforce.org.uk](http://www.readingforce.org.uk)

**Children’s Deployment Support/Memory Boxes** - provide somewhere to store schoolwork, photographs and memories to share with your Service person at a later date and are available on request from Royal Navy Family and People Support (RN FPS).

rnrm-wio@royalnavymail.mod.uk

**The Royal Navy Forum**  - has a wealth of service related information from Accommodation, Activities and Events to Deployment Support. The RN Forum is kept current and relevant and is a useful tool to use as a Topical and Information Resource which is fully moderated throughout the year. The contact details for RN FPS can also be found here if more specialist support is required.

<https://forum.royalnavy.mod.uk/topics>

**SERVICE CHILDREN’S CHARITIES**

**The Naval Childrens Charity** provide help & support for children & young people who, through personal circumstances, are in need, hardship or distress.

[www.navalchildrenscharity.org.uk](http://www.navalchildrenscharity.org.uk)

**The Children’s Society** look at the needs of children undertaking caring responsibilities in Armed Forces Families.

[www.childrenssociety.org.uk/youngcarer/our-work/armed-forces](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/youngcarer/our-work/armed-forces)

**Little Troopers** supports all children with serving parents, regular or reserve. Offer resources, initiatives & support to ease & aid separation periods aiming to keep parent & child connected & bonded even when miles apart.

[www.littletroopers.net](http://www.littletroopers.net)

**Scottys Little Soldiers** support bereaved Armed Forces Children.

[www.scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk](http://www.scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk)

**Forces Children’s Trust** offers help for children in need whose father or mother has died, or has sustained life-changing injuries, whilst serving as a member of the British Armed Forces.  Offering Child bereavement counselling, Group holidays and expeditions, Social events, Educational visits, Educational support.

[www.forceschildrenstrust.org.uk](http://www.forceschildrenstrust.org.uk)

**The Annington Challenge** gives Service young people the opportunity to take part in an Outward-Bound Trust adventure at one of the Trust’s centres in England, Scotland and Wales.

[www.annington.co.uk](http://www.annington.co.uk)

**The Armed Forces Education Trust** support children and young adults whose education has been compromised or put at risk as a result of parents’ past or current service in our Armed Forces.

[www.armedforceseducation.org](http://www.armedforceseducation.org/)

**RBL - Military Kids Club Heroes Network** is a unique pupil voice group for the children and young people of Service personnel and veterans supported and facilitated by The Royal British Legion.

Any school with pupils from Service and veterans’ families can apply to join the MKC Heroes network. This includes secondary and primary schools, as well as academies and private schools.

[www.mkcheroes.co.uk](http://www.mkcheroes.co.uk)

**Royal Caledonian Education Trust -Scotland’s Armed Forces Children’s Charity** support the children of Armed Forces personnel and veterans born in, living in or currently being educated in Scotland (pre-school up to the age of 21).

[www.rcet.org.uk](http://www.rcet.org.uk)