

RN FPS INFORMATION SUPPORT

Education and Childcare

April 2023



This information sheet has been put together to give you an overview of services that are available to you. For further information please contact RN FPS at nrm-wio@royalnavymail.mod.uk

For regular updates and information please join the Royal Navy Forum and follow our Children and Young People page at <https://forum.royalnavy.mod.uk/topics/childcare/>

SERVICE-RELATED SUPPORT

Defence Children Services (formally Directorate Children and Young People DCYP) provides a single Ministry of Defence (MOD) focus for all issues related to service children and young people and the children of MOD UK based personnel and MOD sponsored organisations stationed overseas where they provide education at 22 schools and settings.

DCS also directly supports Service families, providing advice on a wide range of educational matters both overseas and in the UK, delivered by specialist education and advisory teams.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/defence-children-services-dcs>

The Education Advisory Team (EAT) (UK) is part of DCS. It provides professional information, advice, and guidance regarding the education of Service Children in the UK. EAT also provides advice and guidance for service personnel and eligible MOD civilians regarding education and education-related issues, such as retention of Service Family Accommodation, the Continuity of Education Allowance & the Special Educational Needs Addition, Special Educational Needs and School Admissions.

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

The Overseas Education and Supportability Team (OEST) provides professional information, advice, and guidance for service personal and eligible MOD civilians regarding the education of their children in overseas locations. OEST also provides educational advice and support for overseas commands and DCS schools and settings.

This team coordinates the educational supportability assessment process for overseas postings, in respect of children with Special Educational Needs and those for whom parents have selected Elective Home Education.

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

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

Service Children in State Schools (SCISS) is a working group of educational specialists who consider the issues affecting state schools and their support to pupils whose parents serve in the Armed Forces. SCISS host a series of conferences around England, which provide further information to schools and an opportunity to engage with education and MOD experts.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/service-children-in-state-schools-handbook



SSAFA Forces Additional Needs and Disability Forum (FANDF). This forum explores the issues surrounding the support provided for those with additional needs in the Service community.

Tel: 0800 260 6767

<https://www.ssafa.org.uk/get-help/disability-support/additional-needs-and-disability-support>

Moving Schools – A Parents’ Guide and the Moving On – Pupil Passport are helpful documents to assist in a child’s move from one school to another. They can be downloaded from the links below.

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/783800/ADR008108-Pupil_Passport_pag.pdf

The Association of Directors of Education in Scotland website ‘Forces Children’s Education’ includes lots of information for Service families and practitioners and is available at:

<https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk>

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
SSCECymru@wlg.gov.uk

Term Time Absence Advice has been produced by the MOD to provide advice to Head Teachers on term time absence for children of Service personnel. This ensures Head Teachers understand that operational needs of the armed forces may legitimately prevent service families from taking leave during school holidays.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-term-time-absence-for-children-of-service-personnel-mod-guidance>

Service Pupil Premium (SPP) is funded by the Department for Education to State funded schools in England.

The SPP differs from the Pupil Premium in that it is there for schools to provide pastoral support for service children, whereas the Pupil Premium was introduced to raise attainment and accelerate progress within disadvantaged groups.

Schools will not be able to claim the Premium unless the child’s name appears on the school’s roll as being a Service child, based on the Spring Schools Census in January each year. Currently the SPP is £310 per Service child in Reception through to Year 11.

Eligibility Criteria:

- one parent is serving in the regular armed forces.
- pupil must be registered as a ‘Service child’ in the school census at any point since 2011.
- having a parent who has died whilst serving in the armed forces and pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.



- pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service are classed as Service children.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium

Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales have their own administrations and therefore have different arrangements. The funding in Northern Ireland is sourced differently and is applied for in October each year. This funding is also not for independent schools or for MOD Schools.

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

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

Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) provides an allowance for entitled Service personnel to educate their children at a boarding school. The aim of this allowance is to provide educational continuity that children would otherwise not get if they accompanied their parents on frequent assignments in the UK and Overseas.

Eligibility Certificate (EC) can now only be applied for via JPA, unless the Service person is in remote overseas locations without sufficient JPA access where manual forms will remain acceptable. It is essential that details regarding children and home address are kept up to date on JPA. See 2017DIN01-002 – available via the Defence Intranet or RN FPS Information Support Office.

To ensure that Service personnel have considered all the requirements of JSP 752, Chapter 14, and have been advised on the best options for the education of their child(ren) all Service personnel must contact the Education Advisory Team (EAT) for advice before an initial claim for CEA is submitted or when any change of school is being planned.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jsp-752-tri-service-regulations-for-expenses-and-allowances>
Email: RC-DCS-HQ-EAT@mod.gov.uk

Wrap Around Childcare (WAC) Defence recognises that Service parents face additional difficulties when trying to access good quality, affordable childcare for their children. The Wraparound Childcare (WAC) scheme is designed to assist working families with the cost of before and after school childcare and to allow partners to get back into work (or work more hours). It is available for all eligible Service families in the UK and provides up to 20 hours of funding per week for each child during term time.

WAC is known as 'Out of School care' in Wales and 'School Aged Childcare' in Scotland. Parent(s) can choose their own OFSTED, (or equivalent), registered childcare provider.

[Families - wraparound childcare | Royal Navy | Discover My Benefits \(mod.gov.uk\)](#)

Overseas Nursery Authority (ONA) and Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) The process of how to apply for ONA and UIFSM has changed. With the disbandment of DCYP and the creation of Armed Forces Families and Safeguarding (AFFS) and Defence Children Services (DCS) on 1 April 2021, the budget for ONA and UIFSM transferred to the Head Office and Army Res and CEAS support has now ceased. A new JPA solution has been implemented from 1 February 2022.

ONA and UIFSM DINs have been updated accordingly. They can be accessed via the DIN portal (MOD Staff only). Under the new process, it will be up to applicants to carry out their own eligibility checks for both ONA and UIFSM applications and then, once application paperwork has been signed off by the relevant Command,



Service personnel will be able to use JPA's I-Expense for reimbursements. This will make the entire process quicker and easier. Regular audit checks initiated by JPA authorisers will ensure only correct claims are processed.

<https://modgovuk.sharepoint.com/sites/DINs>

If you are considering a posting overseas the following may be of help.

www.gov.uk/guidance/education-overseas-for-service-children
www.ihiveinfo.blogspot.com

Service Parent's Guide to Boarding Schools is a publication which holds more details regarding Boarding Schools and CEA. Hard copies can be requested through the website below.

www.serviceschools.co.uk

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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afbss-form-1>

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.

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

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

Armed Forces Education Trust: 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 our Armed Forces. Grants may be awarded to help improve their educational opportunities or support special skills or talents.

<https://armedforceseducation.org> .

Royal Navy Parents' Network (RNPN) is 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: 023 92 723711

Email: NAVYNBCP-CoB-PSGPSITRNPN@mod.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/groups/royalnavyparentsnetwork

Defence Connect: <https://jive.defencegateway.mod.uk/groups/nspn>

Naval Education and Training Service (NETS) provides support to Service Personnel in continued learning throughout their careers and have full knowledge of Standard Learning Credits and Enhanced Learning Credits. A variety subjects are available at GCSE, A-level, NVQs, etc. and through the Open University too. Some subjects are also open to Spouses.

Chartered Management Institute (CMI) offers accreditation to service personnel who have completed Royal Navy courses.

<https://www.managers.org.uk/education-and-learning/qualifications/armed-forces/royal-navy/>



The Marine Society (Naval Service Only), offer tailored learning programmes that support learning and professional development at all levels, right through to postgraduate.

www.marine-society.org

Overseas Learning and student funding for a UK based distance learning course is now available to ensure Service personnel and their families are not disadvantaged whilst serving overseas.

www.gov.uk/government/news/armed-forces-personnel-and-families-to-be-given-extra-support-to-learn-overseas

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

Forces Connect is a cross border partnership that supports the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant and promote a greater understanding and awareness of the issues effecting the Armed Forces Community. This service is app based and provides a comprehensive directory of contacts and information. Download the App from your relevant app store.

PRE- SCHOOL & NURSERY (EARLY YEARS)

For a wide range of information on parenting including pregnancy and birth, fostering and adoption, childcare and financial assistance, see:

England	www.gov.uk/browse/childcare-parenting
Scotland	www.gov.scot/children-and-families www.parentclub.scot
Wales	https://gov.wales/children-families
Northern Ireland	www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/family-home-and-community/parenting-and-childcare www.familysupportni.gov.uk

Pre- School and Nurseries provide Early Years support to children prior to going to school.

In England, all 3 and 4year-olds get 570 free hours per year. It has usually taken as 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year, but you can choose to take fewer hours over more weeks. This applies until they reach compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday). Some 2year old's are also entitled to free childcare if certain criteria are met.

If working you may be able to get up to 30 hours free childcare (1,140 hours per year, which you can choose how you take).

If you are eligible for the extra hours, you sign up online to get a code to give to your childcare provider to reserve your place. You will get the extra hours once the next term starts.



Further funding for under 2 year olds will be available for working parents. This will be rolled out in stages with 15 hours for 2 year olds being available from April 2024, then from 9 months old to 2 years old from Sept 2024. This offer will increase to 30 hours from Sept 2025.

www.gov.uk/find-free-early-education
www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

In Scotland you can get up to 1,140 hours of funded early learning and childcare a year (around 30 hours a week in term time) if your child is 3 or 4 years old. Some 2-year-olds are also eligible.

<https://www.mygov.scot/childcare-costs-help/funded-early-learning-and-childcare>

In Wales parents and guardians can apply for childcare and early education for up to 30 hours a week for 3- and 4-year-olds. Foster carers and kinship carers (relative or friend who is not a child's parent) can also apply.

<https://gov.wales/childcare-3-and-4-year-olds>

In Northern Ireland there is similar support for parents for those under School age.

www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/pre-school-education-places

Registered childcare provision can be found on the following websites.

England and Wales	www.gov.uk/browse/childcare-parenting/childcare
Scotland	www.families.scot/
Northern Ireland	www.familysupportni.gov.uk/
National	www.childcare.co.uk

To check if a childcare provider is approved or to search for one, and to find out more about help with childcare costs.

www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs

For additional information visit online social networking platform for parents, childcare providers, and private tutors.

www.childcare.co.uk

Additional information and support is also available through the Family Information Service (FIS) that is available through your Local Authority's website

www.gov.uk/find-local-council

You may also be eligible for the **Tax-Free Childcare (TFC)** scheme from the Government which support working parents with childcare costs.

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Further information can be found:

England	www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare
Scotland	www.mygov.scot/childcare-costs-help/other-help-with-childcare-costs
Wales	https://gov.wales/help-paying-childcare
Northern Ireland	www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/help-paying-approved-childcare

SCHOOLS



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Information regarding aspects of education specifically for service children in the UK is available but this will vary depending on where you live or may move to.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-in-the-uk-for-service-children

Further information and forms relating to Armed Forces Families & Safeguarding (AFFS), the Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) and Defence Children's Services are also available.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/dcyp-forms-and-information-sheets

In England details of all UK schools including school performance tables see the Department for Education website. Under the 'Get Information about Schools' section there is a register of UK schools and colleges in England that can be searched by name, location, or Local Authority.

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education

Ofsted Reports for schools, colleges, childminders, nurseries, children's homes and more in England can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

In Scotland information including the curriculum, inspections, catchment areas and to find a school.

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/find-a-school/>
www.mygov.scot/register-your-child-for-a-school

In Wales details of local schools including Estyn reports and a postcode search through 'My Local School':

<https://gov.wales/my-local-school-guide>

In Northern Ireland, a directory of schools in NI and contact information including inspection reports and more, access the Northern Ireland government website.

www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/schools-learning-and-development/choosing-school
www.eani.org.uk/parents

There is also a database of schools in England with links to schools in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. This provides full details of schools and includes primary, secondary, special needs, state, and private schools.

www.get-information-schools.service.gov.uk

Applications and appeals

Contact your current Local Authority who will advise whether applications for schools outside your local area can be processed through them or whether you should liaise directly with the Local Authority in your new location.

Applications for preferred schools require proof of permanent address, however there are measures in place under the **Schools Admissions Code** to allow you to use the unit address as listed on the assignment order or, if appropriate, a quartering address of the closest SFA where you have been allocated accommodation. If you have difficulty in providing this, ask the Unit Personnel Office/HR Dept. if it is possible to have a letter confirming posting to the area to support the application.

You can apply for a place at primary and secondary schools online or by using the Local Authority application form.



England and Wales	www.gov.uk/schools-admissions/how-to-apply
Scotland	www.mygov.scot/register-your-child-for-a-school
Northern Ireland	www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/applying-school-place

Appeals If a child is refused a place at their preferred school The Children's Education Advisory Service can offer guidance to Service families on the process of appealing for a school place and can attend the appeals hearing with them.

www.gov.uk/schools-admissions/appealing-a-schools-decision

The school admission appeal process is regulated by the Admission Appeals Code of Practice.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-appeals-code

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

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.

<https://www.ukbsa.com/state-boarding-school/>

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, local authorities have a duty to provide information, advice, and support to parents of children with SEND. If you think your child may have special educational needs, contact the SEN Coordinator ('SENCO') in your child's school or nursery.

Contact your Local Authority if your child is not in a school or nursery. In England, most offer access to Independent Parental Supporters (IPs) who are volunteers trained to provide individual support to parents.

For Government policies and support:

England	www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs
Scotland	https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/additional-support/
Wales	https://gov.wales/additional-learning-needs-special-educational-needs
Northern Ireland	www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/schools-learning-and-development/special-educational-needs

Additional information, advice and support for parents, children and young people who have or may have special educational needs or disabilities includes the following.

IAS the Information Advice and Support Services Network provides a directory of support across England.

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/what-we-do-0/networks/information-advice-and-support-services-network/find-your-local-ias-service>

SNAP Cymru provides information, advice and support for parents, children and young people who have, or may have, special educational needs or disabilities.

www.snapcymru.org

Enquire in Scotland offers advice and information about additional support for learning legislation and guidance for families and professionals. www.enquire.org.uk

www.enquire.org.uk

SENAC The Special Educational Needs Advice Centre provides support in Northern Ireland.

www.senac.co.uk

If your child has special educational needs, you are also advised to contact CEAS to find out about registering your child with them. There are several ways in which they may be able to help you including **Special Educational Needs Allowance (SENA)** if you are in receipt of a Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA).

SCHOOL LEAVING AGE

School Leaving Age depends on where you live.

England - You can leave school on the last Friday in June if you will be 16 by the end of the summer holidays.

You must then do one of the following until you are 18:

- stay in full-time education, for example at a college
- start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

Scotland - If you turn 16 between 1 March and 30 September you can leave school after 31 May of that year.

If you turn 16 between 1 October and the end of February, you can leave at the start of the Christmas holidays in that school year.

Wales - You can leave school on the last Friday in June, as long as you will be 16 by the end of that school year's summer holidays.

Northern Ireland - If you turn 16 during the school year (between 1 September and 1 July) you can leave school after 30 June.

If you turn 16 between 2 July and 31 August, you cannot leave school until 30 June the following year.

www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school



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POST 16 AND ADULT EDUCATION

After completing secondary school education, there are a range of establishments providing education and training. These include further education, specialist colleges, sixth form colleges, apprenticeships and work-based learning (internship) providers.

England	www.gov.uk/browse/education/find-course www.gov.uk/browse/education/universities-higher-education
Scotland	https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-in-scotland/post-16-opportunities www.mygov.scot/browse/working-jobs/finding-a-job/apprenticeships-training
Wales	https://gov.wales/post-16-education-and-skills
Northern Ireland	www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/skills-succeed

Career Pilot offers further education and careers information for 11–19-year-olds.

www.careerpilot.org.uk

There are also a variety of careers service websites depending on where you live in the UK, and all provide information, advice and guidance on learning, training and work opportunities.

England	https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk
Scotland	www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/scotlands-careers-services
Wales	https://careerswales.gov.wales
Northern Ireland	www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/careers

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is the organisation that processes applications for full-time undergraduate courses at UK universities and colleges. Students can search every university course in the UK on their website, as well as apprenticeships and internships.

www.ucas.com

<https://digital.ucas.com/search>

Get financial help with education costs

England	www.gov.uk/browse/education/student-finance
Scotland	www.mygov.scot/browse/education-training/higher-education
Wales	https://gov.wales/funding-and-finance-for-students
Northern Ireland	www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/student-finance/types-student-finance-available

Other education options include:

The Open University that offers flexible part-time study, supported distance and **open** learning for undergraduate and postgraduate courses and qualification:

www.open.ac.uk

BBC Skillswise that provides resources to help adult learners improve reading, writing and numeracy skills.

www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise

Learn Direct for online courses.

www.learndirect.com

Local Authority Adult education and leisure courses.

www.gov.uk/find-local-council

Join us in the Royal Navy Forum



Or contact us using the details below.



www.royalnavy.mod.uk



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