

RN FPS INFORMATION SUPPORT

School Pack

National

Nov 22



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

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 voluntary affiliated network of state-maintained schools in England that have any number of service children on roll.

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

Information Support for the



Armed Forces Community

The Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance is a partnership of organisations focused on improving outcomes for children from Armed Forces 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>

The Thriving Lives Toolkit Underpinned by rigorous research and thoroughly tested in school, the Thriving Lives Toolkit provides schools with a framework of 7 principles through which to reflect on their practice and a 3 tier set of CPD resources. The resources in this toolkit have been developed in collaboration with a range of partners across the UK, and consist of:

- an introductory animation;
- a detailed resource introducing the evidence base, what schools can do to support their Service children and who can help and;
- school case studies.

<https://www.scipalliance.org/thriving-lives-toolkit>

Connecting Forces is a pilot project developing an online space for young people aged 16 – 19 from Armed Forces Families, providing connection and a sense of belonging wherever they may reside, exploring the values of near-to-peer digital support.

<https://www.scipalliance.org/all-projects/connecting-young-adult-service-children-aged-16-19>

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 EATs. 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

Forces Children's Education includes lots of information about the Scottish education system and the geography and education resources available, along with a guide on understanding the Scottish education system

<https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/understanding-the-scottish-education-system>
<https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/>

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>

Forces Children Scotland (operating name Royal Caledonian Education Trust) support children and young people from serving, reservist and veteran families across Scotland to realise their potential and thrive in lots of different ways.

<https://forceschildrenscotland.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
ssce@wlg.gov.uk

Term Time Absence Advice has been produced by 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.

<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

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:

- 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 have to be flagged as service children ahead of the autumn school census deadline. Service parents need to 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

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

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

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

Boarding School Finder is supported by The Education Advisory Team (UK) within DCS, the Education Advisory Team are able to provide Service Personnel with a copy of the Boarding School Database in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. Please contact DCS to receive a copy.

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

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>

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 serving Royal Navy 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

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



www.royalnavy.mod.uk



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rnrm-wio@royalnavymail.mod.uk

ROYAL NAVY SUPPORT

Royal Navy Family & People Support (RN FPS) delivers a range of services to support both service personnel and their families. These offer both proactive, reactive and crisis intervention.

Information support is available, as and when required, and is useful for when relocating, deploying, looking for a specific service, or if you have a question or issue that you cannot find the answer to. Through regular research RN FPS Information Officers ensure up to date and relevant information is available to all. Information is available via the RN Website, RN Forum, and internal channels such as DEFNet and Sharepoint or directly via email.

Community support is offered in a variety of different settings including centres and houses close to Royal Navy Units, with many of the local activities being carried out in partnership with other organisations, such as Aggie's. In response to a specific requirement, events will be organised in the appropriate geographical area. Events can also be hosted online via MS Teams to enable a greater reach out to families in dispersed areas.

The Royal Navy Youth Network supports young people and feeds into the Tri-Service Youth Forum allowing individuals to share their experiences, influence policy and gain professional and peer-to-peer support.

Official engagement with our personnel and families is key to ensure they are gaining the correct information at the right time. The Royal Navy Forum provides a safe and secure area of communication for families to be informed, involved and in touch with the Royal Navy. Some areas are open access, however specific messaging and information for families is within a gated area accessed through registering as a member, especially important for messaging that should not be added to third party social media and for time when we are silent on these too. RN FPS also manage the official Social Media presence for the Royal Navy community where closed Facebook groups are used as a conduit into the RN Website and RN Forum. Both are moderated from 0800-2200, 365 days per year. <https://forum.royalnavy.mod.uk>

Deployment support is a key area of our work in which information, community and engagement play a part. Working closely with Units prior to deployment we carry out planning meetings which includes organising unit Forum Liaison Officers (FLOs) mandatory pre-deployment briefs to personnel and meetings with DO/TCs where certain issues can be discussed with a Case Worker. Some units now deploy with a Case Worker as part of their Ship's company allowing for immediate specialist advice and support to both the Divisional System and individuals. Families can also take advantage of RN FPS online briefs, information packs, memory box activity packs for children and Family Welfare Grant (FWG) Days Out, all of which are available via the RN Forum.

Compassionate support

Whilst the above sits more in the proactive space RN FPS are also reactive in times of need, both in engagement and specialist welfare support. There are times when individuals may require a more specialist service to support during a crisis or personal situation. Our professionally trained Case Work staff offer guidance; support either practical or emotional; and will advocate on your behalf directly or in conjunction with other agencies. Wherever you are living and/or based, the primary access point for these services is the RN FPS Portal. A comprehensive assessment of the situation will be carried out to ascertain what support is required, and this may be provided immediately, through signposting to the right sources of support or through the allocation of a RN FPS Case Worker who will stay by your side until their presence is no longer required.

RN FPS Portal

T: 0800 145 6008

E: navypeople-psrnfpsportal@mod.gov.uk

Information, Community & Engagement

E: navypeople-psrnfpsinfo@mod.gov.uk



www.royalnavy.mod.uk



@RoyalNavyFPS



@RoyalNavyFPS



rnrm-wio@royalnavymail.mod.uk

Aggie's supports all personnel serving in the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and their families with pastoral and practical support.

Aggie's has Pastoral Workers based in RN establishments and RM units across the UK and has a dedicated Pastoral Worker, based at Whale Island, for those serving in the RFA. Aggie's pastoral workers are available to listen, chat, offer comfort and support and signpost all serving personnel and their families as they require.

Aggie's Pastoral Workers work in close collaboration with the chaplains and are often located within NCS Havens and coffee bars, which offer a relaxed environment for personnel.

The Community Waves teams in Portsmouth and Plymouth offer families a timetable of events based in and around SFA areas. Events range from fitness and walking groups to sewing, craft and coffee and toddler groups. The timetable of all events can be found on Aggie's social media.

Aggie's Storybook Waves is a FREE service that enables all personnel serving in the Royal Navy to record a bedtime story for their children to listen to whilst they are separated. Separation can be through deployment, non-operational separation, courses and long shift patterns. After the story is recorded, sound effects are added and then sent to the family with the Aggie's gift pack that includes; a copy of the book read, copy of the NCC's Zoe and the Time Rabbit, Aggie's Mini Medals for each child, bookmarks and aged appropriate deployment journals.

www.aggies.org.uk

The Naval Childrens Charity provide help & support for children & young people who, through personal circumstances, are in need, hardship or distress. They also have several publications which support children through deployment and bereavement.

www.navalchildrenscharity.org.uk

Royal Navy Royal Marines Charity supports programmes through several organisations, such as Relate and Home Start in order to support RN Children and Young People.

<https://www.rnrmc.org.uk/how-we-help/families-and-relationships>

ADDITIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES

Registering a child with EATs can provide extra support to service children and young people with Special Educational Needs.

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

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

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

<https://iassnetwork.org.uk/what-we-do/networks-partnerships/information-advice-and-support-services-network>

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



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rnrm-wio@royalnavymail.mod.uk

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

www.enquire.org.uk

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

www.senac.co.uk

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.

<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
www.gov.uk/browse/childcare-parenting/childcare

The Wraparound Childcare (WAC) was originally piloted in 3 locations between 2020 and 2022 with the aim to 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.

From Autumn 2022 WAC was rolled out across the UK. WAC funding will now be available to all eligible Service families with children aged 4 to 11 years, who are in school or being home schooled in the UK.

If eligible, Personnel can claim up to 20 hours per week of funding for each child that is attending before and after school care during term time. WAC is known as 'Out of School care' in Wales and 'School Aged Childcare' in Scotland.

www.gov.uk/government/news/free-wraparound-childcare-for-the-armed-forces
<https://discovermybenefits.mod.gov.uk/>

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/admissions-criteria
Scotland	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



Northern Ireland	www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/school-admissions-guidance
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Appeals If a child is refused a place at their preferred school The Education Asvisory Team (EATs) 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

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.

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

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

OTHER SERVICE CHARITIES

The following offer specific services for Service Children. A full list of Service Charities can be found here:

<https://www.cobseo.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



www.royalnavy.mod.uk



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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

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

Scottys Little Soldiers support bereaved Armed Forces Children.

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

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

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

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

USEFUL LINKS

Royal Navy Forum	https://forum.royalnavy.mod.uk/topics
Naval Families Federation	www.nff.org.uk/education
Army HIVE	https://www.army.mod.uk/people/support-well/hive/
Army Families Federation	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/

