

Supporting Service pupils in Hampshire:

a resource for schools and families



Contents

This collation of information, contacts and links is to assist schools and families in accessing the best support for Service pupils and raise the effective use of the Service Pupil Premium. This includes information from the:

- Department for Education (DfE);
- Armed Forces Families and Safeguarding (AFFS);
- Ministry of Defence (MOD);
- Service Children in State Schools (SCISS);
- Service Children’s Progression Alliance (SCiP);
- University of Winchester;
- Good practice examples from Hampshire schools;
- Guidance from the armed forces Family Federations.

Foreword.....	3
The Armed Forces Covenant.....	4
How does the Covenant support education?.....	5
What is it like to be a Service pupil in Hampshire?.....	6
What is Service Pupil Premium?.....	9
Service Pupil Premium – good practice and case studies.....	10
The Armed Forces Community in Hampshire.....	22
How does Hampshire work together to support Service children?.....	23
How do the Family Federations support school life?.....	24
Links with the Armed Forces Education Trust.....	26
Links with the University of Winchester.....	27
Admissions.....	30
Term time absence for Service Children.....	31
Information for families: connecting.....	32

Thank you to all of those who have contributed; the document was correct at time of print.

Foreword

We are proud of the strong relationship between the Armed Forces and civilians who have had a strong presence in Hampshire for a long time, with serving personnel, veterans and their families being a rich and valued part of the community.

With the largest population of Service pupils of any county, it is particularly important that our schools work closely with the various branches of the different Services to ensure that pupils are well supported in both their learning and in their personal development.

This document, drawn from the contributions of many, shares the way in which the different branches of local authority staff, school, college and university staff, Armed Forces personnel and community groups do just that; sharing a common goal to raise aspirations and achievement for all of our Service pupils,

recognising, celebrating and building on their broad experiences to help develop positive and happy citizens with great futures.

It also provides examples of the great work that takes place as well as share key information for families and schools, providing useful links to enable all of those involved with young people to receive guidance and support. This relationship and ongoing participation is active, engaging and personalised, reflecting the value with which Service pupils and their families are held.

We hope that you will find this information useful, enabling schools and Service families to further strengthen their work together.

Councillor Roz Chadd

Executive Lead Member for Children's Services



The Armed Forces Covenant

The Armed Forces Covenant had its principles enshrined in law in the Armed Forces Act in 2011 and is a promise from the nation that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces and their families, are treated fairly. Hampshire was one of the first Local Authorities to sign the Covenant.

The principles are that the armed forces community should not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision

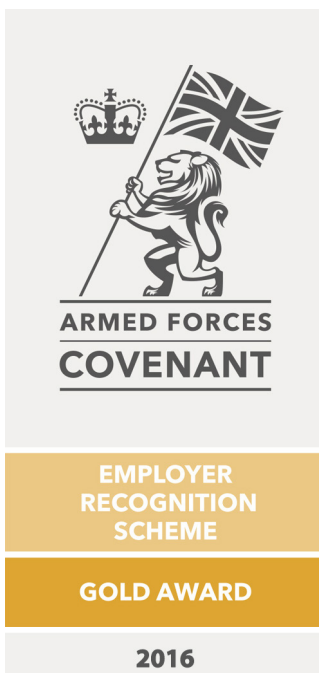
- The Naval Service (including the Royal Navy and Royal Marines);
- The Army;
- The Royal Air Force;
- Reservists;
- Bereaved families of those formerly serving;
- The families of all those who serve – spouses, partners and children.

of public and commercial services, and Hampshire County Council's ambition is that the support for the armed forces is embedded into mainstream services.

The Armed Forces Community is anyone who is currently serving in the armed forces – either as a regular or a reserve, or a veteran who served in the armed forces – either regular or reserve, from the following services:

Here is a copy of the Covenant and further information:

- [The Armed Forces Covenant: Ministry of Defence](#)
- armedforcescovenant.gov.uk
- [Armed Forces Covenant: guidance and support](#)



Employer recognition scheme gold award

We were one of the first Local Authorities to sign the Covenant. There is a well established strategic Civilian Military Partnership Board. In 2016 our efforts were recognised with the prestigious Gold Award within the MOD Employer Recognition Scheme.



How does the Covenant support education?

The introduction of the Service Pupil Premium (SPP) is one of the actions taken by the Department for Education (DfE) that supports pupils through the Covenant.

Service Pupil Premium is provided for children when one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces or they have been recorded as having Service pupil status at any point in the past six years.

Children are 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 headteacher or school administration staff, as this enables the SPP to be received.

A further aspect supported by the Covenant is the ability for a primary school to exceed the capped infant class size of 30, for a Service child moving into the area mid-year. This admission is managed by the Admission authority working in conjunction with the school.

Further information about Service Pupil Premium:

- [Service Pupil Premium – gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/service-pupil-premium)



What is it like to be a Service pupil in Hampshire?

The county of Hampshire has the largest population of pupils from Service families and reflects each of the three armed forces; currently there are approximately 5,154 pupils on roll in its state-funded primary and secondary schools and they are widely distributed across many schools with 450 schools having at least one Service pupil (2019). Whilst thirty-two schools have 40 or more pupils, there are also 250 schools who have two or fewer Service children. We encourage our schools to consider the experiences and needs of all their pupils in developing their curriculum and in implementing their pastoral plans so that all pupils have good welfare and wellbeing.

Many of the children join schools at times other than at the start of the year and therefore schools

have planned approaches to welcoming pupils and helping them settle in quickly. Whilst some schools have New Arrival Ambassadors to help new joiners integrate well, and some schools make use of a transition 'passport', all schools work hard to support strong induction, knowing that an uncertain time can be helped by good communication. Some clusters of schools in areas with a high population of Service pupils have dedicated Support Advisors to guide them, and also a small team of staff to work with both pupils and their families.

An important part of Hampshire schools' work is listening to pupils' voices; hearing what pupils have to say about Service life and their school experience, helps schools develop their work.



The Military Drop In – Wavell School

Held on a Wednesday lunchtime this session is for students from Military families only and is an opportunity for them to meet and socialise with other young people from similar backgrounds. It also provides a place to chat about any issues or worries especially during periods of deployment.



There are regular Service orientated days, great liaison with Service personnel, as well as a dedicated Service area which showcases some of what the Service parents are up to.



My child attends Service family club and has a liaison person to 'check in' with her each week. They are very open to listening and supporting the children of deployed people.



Open door policy, coffee and chat, Service families' tea, access to Family Liaison Officer if needed.



They offer Service Club and also KIT (Keeping in Touch) sessions. All staff within the school are welcoming and approachable should any Service-related issues need to be addressed.



More opportunities to link up with other forces children in other schools. Have a 'forces' day celebrating our forces. Visit military bases/ships and see what their parent does.



My children have made a number of friends by being a Service child. I feel positively that some of these friendships will be life-long.



They have a sense of belonging to a close-knit community, through living in a Service community and seeing those friends at school.



Perhaps have a session on what it is like to be a Service family for the whole class so that other friends can understand what is involved if there are a proportion of Service family children in the class so that they understand what the military does as it's not a tangible concept to children without experience of it.



Weekly forces club, open door policy for chats, always available to raise concerns with and work through solutions.

Reflections on being a pupil from a Service family

Jese Raratabu – Year 11, The Wavell School, Rushmoor

A poem I like the most is Homesick, this because I can actually relate to this poem on how I miss certain things back at home (Fiji). These things can be landscape or the atmosphere and the food and culture.

New Beginning

Fresh restart
All mistakes made are now forgotten
Prepared
New settlements
New people
New area
Adapting
Fitting in
Reset

Being a son of a soldier, you gain many and different perspective of life around the world
Some say it's good because you're not stuck in one area
Some say it's bad because you're constantly moving like a wanted thug
I say, listen, to me as I will tell an average life of military kid

Moving constantly is actually alright because who would want to live in constant repetition
Seeing the same people, going to the same shop, visiting the same town
But there are downfalls
Brotherhood becomes delicate, your social skills are put to the test, trying to fit in becomes frequent

Life as military kid is framed with adaptation and layered up with discipline
You take in what you receive and use it in all four corners of the world
You evolve both mentally and physically
What others find challenging, you find easy

What is Service Pupil Premium?

The Department for Education introduced the Service Pupil Premium (SPP) 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.

Parents are encouraged to identify their child as a pupil eligible for Service Pupil Premium. Parents may need to check with their child's school that this has been done.

Unlike the disadvantaged Pupil Premium, eligible schools receive the SPP 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.

Schools have flexibility over how they use the SPP, as they are best placed to understand and respond to the specific needs of those pupils for whom the funding has been allocated. The funding could be spent on providing a variety of means of support including groups, clubs and events, and some additional staffing, but related to ensuring young people are welcomed and integrated properly into school and enabled to be part of the school's community.

The SPP can also be used to support academic progress and attainment if that is an effective way of supporting a child.

The SPP is paid to the school as a total amount and is not allocated to individual pupils; the governing body and school leaders will decide how the money will be spent and will be able to show how they have allocated the money.

When Ofsted inspects a school, it will also consider the use of the SPP and its impact.

Further information on the Service Pupil Premium and current eligibility criteria can be found:

- [gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium)
- [gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium/service-pupil-premium-what-you-need-to-know](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium/service-pupil-premium-what-you-need-to-know)
- [gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium/service-pupil-premium-spp-information-sheet](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium/service-pupil-premium-spp-information-sheet)
- [gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium/service-pupil-premium-examples-of-best-practice](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium/service-pupil-premium-examples-of-best-practice)

Service Pupil Premium – good practice and case studies

In addition to the sample of good practice shared by the MOD, and SCISS, Hampshire schools also have some great examples of their strategies to support young children, and case studies of their work.

Many schools have produced their own welcome

packs and information for new Service families to support strong transition to a new school and to help children and families settle in. Most information is available through schools' websites.

MOD Service Pupil Premium – Examples of best practice

Crofton Anne Dale Federation of Schools – Fareham

Every child who has a member of their family in the armed forces is invited to Troopers Club at Crofton Anne Dale. During previous lockdowns, we had delivered activities and a Tommy pin badge to each child at home, so they knew they were in our thoughts. In the recent lockdown, we again wanted the children to know we were thinking about them and had watched along with the rest of the country last year when Captain Sir Tom Moore showed incredible grit and determination to complete 100 laps of his garden and raise huge amounts of money for the NHS. We felt this was truly inspirational and decided to deliver one to every Service family in our federation. Parents and children alike were delighted with this special gift and many commented on what a lovely memento it was.



I've just had a very special delivery 📦 from my school @crofton_annedalefed

My Dad has always served in the armed forces 🇬🇧 and at school we have a great group called "Troopers" it is set up to help support us all when our parents are away!!!

As we can't be all together at the moment they wanted to deliver this book and an activity pack to say we miss you!!!

I have quickly read my book about @sir.captaintommoore and I loved it!! Particularly the part about him hiding his motorbike and taking his Dog to school 😊

Big big thank you to all my lovely teachers for surprising

Crofton Hammond Infant School – Fareham

Crofton Hammond Infant School is a two-form infant school in Fareham with 32% of the infant school's 181 pupils coming from Armed Forces families, predominantly the Navy. Pupils regularly experience separation and deployment.

The school has worked hard over the years to ensure that they make good use of the Service Family Pupil Premium that they receive.

The need

Staff observed high numbers of children experiencing wellbeing, engagement and learning issues when a parent works away for a period of time or works away every Monday to Friday. The school identified a need to put in place a 'deployment package' as a family prepared for a period of separation. As part of this the school looked for a way to increase a child's link with the parent once they went away.

The solution

A proficient knitter willing to create bespoke dolls in the likeness of a child and their parent, initially created a few prototype dolls. The idea for this project came from the 'Knit the Family' initiative launched by the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Children's Fund but their knitter has adapted the patterns to cover all of the services, and even ensures that everyone has the right colour hair and hairstyle! These dolls are then presented to pupils.

Outcomes and impact

The positive impact of these initial dolls led to the idea being embedded in school support as part of a 'deployment package'. The scheme has also been extended to civilian children whose parent works away during the week. Parents report that the dolls are carried everywhere by their child and are particularly important at bedtime. Teachers observe many well-loved dolls in school and report a particular impact when a child receives photos of their own doll on deployment overseas with their parent, or when they can Skype each other alongside their own dolls.

What did we think?

“When we video call it’s a comfort for my son to see Dad with the little doll. It has eased his anxieties when my husband goes away and has become a routine part of my husband’s packing for a trip away. The school have been instrumental in ensuring that the disruption of him being away is minimalised and the doll has certainly helped achieve this.”

Reception class parent

“One child, who found it particularly tricky that her dad worked away Monday to Friday, just pops her ‘Daddy Doll’ in the front of her jumper when she comes to school and consequently, she can cope a lot better, and her learning has really improved.”

Year 1 teacher



Talavera Junior School – Rushmoor

Talavera Junior is a three-form entry junior school which serves a community with a rich diversity of social and cultural groups. It serves a large army community with 64% children from Armed Forces families. There is high mobility across the school with regular regimental moves, throughout the school year.

The need

Service children typically attend the school for approximately two to three years due to regimental postings. The numbers on role are very turbulent and can vary depending on individual moves or moves en-masse - when whole regiments are posted both in and out of the area. When this takes place it is necessary to put in a wide range of support for both pupils and the family. The school runs programmes for learning to close the gap and for pastoral elements in order to provide wrap-around care for the whole family.

Solution taken

- Service families have access to a Family Support Worker, as part of a Rushmoor cluster of schools, alongside its own in-school Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) and provide a parent link. The ELSA provides bubble time which allows the children to talk through issues and concerns or deliver specific ELSA programmes.
- Story sacks have been created, alongside the Methodist Forces Board. These story bags are packed with a book and a range of activities to support families when one of more parent has been deployed. These are available for children to take home and share with their families. The story sacks allow children to understand the complex emotions they are feeling and bring families, who are often apart, together.
- Service Premium funding allows the school to support pupils with tailored personalised support in order to develop their skills and make accelerated progress.
- Little Troopers Club is a fun based lunch group which includes both Service and non-Service children to allow all children to have a greater understanding of Service children. This club encourages bonds to be built and all children to celebrate their backgrounds within a rich and diverse community.
- When parents are deployed, Service children are invited to attend Camouflage Club. This is a group where the children are given the opportunity to talk and complete a variety of fun activities, with others who are in a similar situation. The children feel they are able to relate to each other. By expressing themselves in this environment, they are more able to learn in the classroom.

- Service children have often had a turbulent education. Talavera provides a My Passport scheme in order to quickly get to know the children and encourage them to settle well – immediately identifying any problems. The children are taught to be incredibly welcoming and nurturing to all new arrivals at the school.
- Talavera facilitates a number of events, for example a Camo Day, which is run alongside the army. This is the perfect opportunity for the children to celebrate their Service community whilst taking part in a variety of fun filled activities. All children take part, helping them to understand and work alongside their rich community.

Outcomes and impact

Service children feel well supported and make accelerated progress whilst they are at the school. The My Passport Scheme monitors their well-being in the school. Children are eager and excited to attend the wealth of clubs available and class teachers recognise that the extra pastoral support and intervention allows all Service children to make progress. Parents appreciate our open-door policy and feel the school regularly supports both the children and them. Children settle quickly in the school and are then able to make the most of every learning opportunity provided.

What did we think?

“The Camo Day was a pleasure to support – all children gained an experience of military life from conducting a basic drill for parade to living in the field deployed with kits. This gave them some knowledge about the level of discipline, fitness, teamwork and professionalism a soldier would require. This learning can potentially inspire the young children to be disciplined, work hard and contribute to a team in their best possible standard.”

Capt L K Gurung, School Governor and Parent

“We loved the story sack as the book helped us feel connected to our dad, even if he goes away. We enjoyed doing the activities as a family.”

Elise Smalley, Year 5

Wavell Community School – Rushmoor

The parent support service based at The Wavell School has been in place for The Wavell cluster of schools for over ten years. This service is also available to support all our military families in Rushmoor.

What we do

The Parent Support Team offers early intervention for families looking for support and advice around parenting strategies, behaviour management, debt, family relationships such as separation and/or deployment. Also issues around education such as attendance, lateness, and supporting good mental health.

We also run parenting courses such as Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme) both primary and teen, family links parenting puzzle and Henry (healthy eating and nutrition for the young). We have also written and deliver various workshops, such as:

- Four weeks of positive parenting programme supporting all families and children;
- Supporting and understanding emotions – anxiety;
- Supporting and understanding emotions – anger;
- Friendships and problem solving;
- Primary top ten tips and teen parenting in the 21st century.

Every day is a new day, a new challenge, and we have to be flexible to meet family needs. During the recent pandemic we have offered telephone and video support. One to one support in our new office when we are able to offer safe distancing and group workshops can be run and managed to keep all safe.

We also have a close relationship and partnership working with AWS, HIVE, CAB, DV Forum and other agencies in the area.

Robert May's School – Odiham

Robert May's School in Odiham serves a catchment area of 100 square miles which includes RAF Odiham, a front line support helicopter base working within the Joint Helicopter Command. It's home of the UK Chinook Force and operates three Chinook squadrons.

Currently 80 children from Service Families attend the school. Their attendance at school is consistently significantly better than their peers. We are fortunate to have strong parental support for students' education from our RAF families and an excellent flow of communication with the RAF base. We are also fortunate that, because the work that is done at RAF Odiham is quite specialised, the majority of families do stay with us for the duration of their children's secondary education. The Service Children tend to make more than expected progress and are one of the top performing groups within the school.

We use the Service Premium mainly to provide additional counselling and student support staffing in school to be able to support Service children through times of disruption and deployment. We have also invested time and resources in staff training to enable our teaching staff to understand and appreciate the challenges that Service children may face at times when their parents may be posted away from Odiham and particularly when involved in combat and in the disruption that they may have experienced in their education moving from school to school. Freeing staff up to attend the Local Schools RAF Forum meetings has been an important part of the school being able to anticipate deployment patterns and other disruptions which the young people might face and put support in place. We've also used the Service Premium to support specific activities or resources to support the Service children in their learning or participation in the school's enrichment programme.

A couple of years ago we also conducted an internal review looking at the experience of Service students at Robert May's and asking them what more we could do to support them. Many of the responses were about recognising the presence and importance of the RAF within the local community and led to us making conscious efforts to recognise and celebrate the work that is done 'just over the hill' and around the world. Over the past few years we have invited RAF chaplains to give Assemblies, RAF personnel have become an annual presence at the school's Remembrance Day commemorations and Founders Day service and at Careers events in the school. RAF Odiham have also supported STEM projects where our STEM ambassadors work with students from our Feeder Schools with the winning students being invited for a tour of the base and a flight in a Chinook. The Jon Egging Trust have also provided opportunities for some of our students helping them to overcome adversity, identify their strengths and work towards their ambitions and students have the chance to visit RAF Odiham and witness the work that is done there first hand.

Of course there is always more that we can do and the appointment of a new member of our Academy Trust Board who is based at RAF Odiham offers further opportunities to strengthen our relationship with the RAF base and further enhance the support that we give to these families.

Support for Service pupils at Talavera Junior School

Every year we have a number of events supported by our Service community for all our children.

Dad's camp out

We invite our dads to bring their children camping overnight on the school field. They teach their children how to pitch a tent, play team sports and spend a night under the

stars. It is a great opportunity to share skills and build our community. We do not always see our dads in school.



Tag rugby competition

We have a special tag rugby day, where our military and civilian parents take on the children with a sports afternoon. This included a range of tag rugby matches,

where the children received professional coaching in the morning, ready to take on the parents. It has become very competitive.



Camo day

We always support our military charity (SSAFA) with a special Camo Day. All children dress up. The local Garrison normally helps organise the event and

creates a range of militarily inspired activities, such as night goggle viewing tents and packing up a kit bag.



Nepali day

We celebrate our main commonwealth army families' heritage through special cultural days. We are always supported by the whole community and the Garrison alike.

Everyone wears traditional dress, has a traditional lunch cooked by the community and learn traditional dances.



The following are examples of the use of SPP by the Army Families Federation (AFF):

- Learning Support Assistant dedicated to the emotional wellbeing and academic achievement of Service children;
- Weekly pizza lunch day or café for children with a parent away;
- Reading Force materials;
- Teddy bear mascots like Sergeant Camo-patch;
- Half-termly social events for parents and children;
- Website page for Service families;
- Themed visits and outings;
- Forces choir;
- Moving-schools support including 'My passport';
- After school clubs including combat club, football club, or sports themed particularly to involve more role models for the children;
- Welcome films made by pupils;
- Deployment display boards;
- Still photo books and talking photo books;
- Service children's base within school, with a bank of computers for scanning schoolwork to email parents who are away and keep them in touch.

Army Families Federation



The Armed Forces Community in Hampshire

Children with Armed Forces Parents

District	Spring 2021
Basingstoke and Deane	181
East Hampshire	182
Eastleigh	118
Fareham	873
Gosport	1,020
Hart	409
Havant	408
New Forest	353
Rushmoor	737
Test Valley	548
Winchester	325

District	Primary school Children with Armed Forces Parents	Secondary school Children with Armed Forces Parents
Basingstoke and Deane	74	107
East Hampshire	69	113
Eastleigh	52	66
Fareham	405	468
Gosport	490	530
Hart	213	196
Havant	185	223
New Forest	158	195
Rushmoor	446	291
Test Valley	360	188
Winchester	157	168

How does Hampshire work together to support Service children?

Hampshire is a large local authority where those in education, admissions, school place planning, Special Educational Needs (SEN), culture and communities, and social care work closely together to support the needs of all pupils including those from Service families.

Hampshire Children's Services

All schools and education settings work closely with Hampshire Children's Services, which encompasses Children and Families' support, to ensure all children receive the care and support they need in all circumstances. This includes working with families as well individual children 0-19, frequently at an early help stage, to support children's welfare.

Advice and support for families both locally and across Hampshire is available via:

hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/familysupportservice

Both the County Council and borough and district councils advocate strongly for Service families and this is reflected across their wide-ranging work with links to many organisations including charities, and partnership work. In schools this work is directly supported by the following:

Civilian Military Partnership

Hampshire's Civilian Military Partnership is a strong and active partnership which underpins the delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant,

with a clear action plan to support its work. The Education strand has resulted in a number of developments over the past few years. Regular meetings of all partners have focused on raising attainment for Service pupils, ensuring the pre-school and early education is accessible and of high quality, and that support for families moving is assisted by fair and open Admissions support. A key aspect of its work also includes maximising the networks and services available to all schools and families and sharing these.

District co-ordinator meetings

Hampshire is divided into 11 regional districts and boroughs, and schools with Service pupils in Hampshire support each other through their termly network of District Meetings. In this way they look to share good practice and seek to improve education outcomes for Service children. Professional development for staff, awareness raising and links with and participation of external partners means that provision for pupils is enhanced, enabling them to promote the wellbeing and improved achievement of Service children.

Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS)

HIAS provides professional development support for schools in best meeting the needs of Service pupils; including the Service Pupils Succeed programme.

How do the Family Federations support school life?

Hampshire schools have good links with the Forces Families Federations. The Federations support schools in offering practical support to families and children so that they are able access school life with confidence.

The Forces Families Federations exist to provide voices for Service personnel and work to improve their life and diminish or solve any problems which may arise. They have a wealth of information on each of their websites and an overview of each Federation is outlined below. Families will have a contact link person who will be able to help should an issue arise.

Army Families Federation (AFF)

The Army Families Federation (AFF) is the independent voice of Army families and works hard to improve the quality of life for Army families around the world – on any aspect that is affected by the Army lifestyle.

The AFF is independent of the Army and offers confidential advice. They deal with enquiries discreetly.

The AFF is often pivotal in achieving improvements for Army families such as changes to Government and military policy and changes to how things are provided for families. The AFF does not do this by itself; their role is to highlight problems to those making decisions or service providers, and to work with them and other agencies to improve the support they provide to Service families.

The AFF also provides a signposting service to

help families find the right person to speak to, as well as providing useful information for Army families through its website and magazine, **Army&You**.

They will help with any issue an Army family may have if the issue has come to a dead-end through their own efforts and they are not satisfied with the answers given or whether an issue or problem needs to be highlighted so that the AFF can work on it. Some of the main areas they deal with are:

- Education and childcare;
- Housing;
- Health and additional needs;
- Employment and training;
- Foreign and commonwealth;
- Army Reserve;
- Deployments;
- Money matters;
- Family life;
- The AFF can be contacted through the links here: aff.org.uk/contact/.

Naval Families Federation (NFF)

The NFF vision is for all Naval Service Families to:

- be able to have their views heard by those in positions of power;
- feel valued and be treated with fairness and respect;
- and thrive in their communities of choice.

The NFF is a totally confidential service, who understand the challenges of Navy life but aren't a formal part of the Naval Service.

Whether help is needed with schools and education (nff.org.uk/education/), or information about where a family live or work, finances, future, postings overseas, relationships or health, the NFF provides concern and support for the Naval Service family.

Helping families

Sometimes families find it difficult to find the help, support or advice they need. The website nff.org.uk/ has the answers to questions they are often asked, although the NFF team is ready to help, or to introduce personnel to someone else who can.

Royal Air Force Families Federation (RAF FF)

The RAF Families Federation provides an independent voice for all personnel (single, married or in a partnership) and all of your families. They work to improve quality of life around the world – at work or at home. This could include resolving problems with access to education or healthcare for children and young people, sorting out problems with accommodation, benefits and visas, or helping military spouses find meaningful employment – all issues that arise from having a mobile lifestyle.

The team can provide practical support and advice, as well as lobbying for change with politicians and policy makers in the British Government and across Scotland, Wales and NI.

The RAF FF works hard with a multitude of other organisations and agencies – from the NHS to the big banks – to ensure that Service personnel and their family are treated fairly and that do not face disadvantage because of the unique nature of Service life.

For more information on education please visit this page: raf-ff.org.uk/education/

Links with the Armed Forces Education Trust

armedforceseducation.org

The Armed Forces Education Trust (the Trust) is a grant giving charity that supports Service children in many Hampshire schools. The Trust aims to help fund the education of children who have been disadvantaged by their parents' service, past or present, aiming to ensure that their education is not compromised. The Trust works towards this goal by making grants to both individuals and schools.

Individual grants

Individual grants are awarded to children who are at risk of having their education disrupted by their parents' service. The grants are awarded through a combination of means testing and a broader in-depth assessment of the family's circumstances. Lack of educational continuity is a potential challenge for Armed Forces children. Therefore, Trust grants are typically awarded to support a period of education, such as up to the end of key stage exams. As well as grants towards school fees individual grants can be made to schools for one to one support of a child. An example of this would be the funding of a Learning Support Assistant while an EHCP was sought for a Service child who had moved before this could be agreed at a previous school.

Collective grants

Collective grants are awarded to educational providers; either schools or local education authorities. Grants are used to fund specific interventions or staff members supporting

Service children directly. Recent examples have been, funding a Numbers Count programme, which enables 'intensive support' to build skills and confidence in mathematics; and a Service Pupil Support Officer, aiming to increase emotional stability, promote life skills and improve educational outcomes.

Trust grants have recently supported the following schools:

Wavell School – a Trust grant is currently funding a Service Family Support Worker to support Service children in a Cluster of local schools.

Talavera Junior School – a grant has recently been awarded to support a group of Service children who have been impacted by COVID-19, particularly a significant number who transited into the school during lockdown.

Mayhill Junior School – asked the Trust to help fund a writing intervention when they noticed gaps in literacy attainment among their Service children.

Shipton Bellinger and Stockbridge Primary Schools – the Trust helped with a grant towards Thrive training to support the Service pupils

Herne Junior School – a grant from the Trust helped them form an art club for their small group of Service children who produced a collaborative mosaic over a term to celebrate HM Forces.

Links with the University of Winchester

Hampshire schools have a positive working relationship with the **University of Winchester** which together provides strong support for our Armed Forces community in schools. Alongside their hosting of the **Service Children's**

Progression Alliance (SCiP) and co-leadership with Portsmouth University of the local Hub of the Alliance's Hub Network, the University strongly supports the progression of Service children across the county.



The Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance

SCiP 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 in championing 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. The SCiP Alliance is working to:

- Establish and sustain an alliance of stakeholder organisations across the UK to support the progression of Service children into thriving adult lives and careers.
- Develop an effective research and practice hub network that enables the continuous improvement of practitioners' work with and for Service children's education and progression in local contexts.

- Lead research and knowledge exchange activities to drive improvements in understanding evidence and impact focused on Service children's outcomes.

In Hampshire this work is developed through the southern hub. Schools are benefiting from their:

- development of a school improvement **Thriving Lives Toolkit** following the completion of independent research to identify effective approaches schools can take to enhance Service children's educational progression;
- year-long programme of inquiry to explore and act on Service children's views and voices.

More information about all of their work is available on the SCiP Alliance website: scipalliance.org



Thrivng Lives Toolkit

The Thrivng Lives toolkit is a practical resource to support schools in ensuring that their provision and approaches support Service pupils well. It was developed by the SCiP Alliance and drew from research involving schools serving families from the RAF, Army and Royal Navy, and with schools

with a high proportion of Service pupils to those with few. The toolkit enables schools to consider best practice, build on Service pupils' strengths, and deliver pastoral, curriculum and teaching approaches to help pupils thrive. Many schools in Hampshire are successfully using this to enhance their work.

Creative forces

Creative forces days were developed by staff at the University of Winchester and have subsequently been adopted by other institutions across the UK as a model for supporting Service children. These days are open to Service children from Year 4 and above, are free of charge, and are held typically once a year.

The purpose of the days is to raise pupils' aspirations, give them a taste of further education and university life and to meet friends with similar experiences and those who are now at University.

CREATIVE FORCES

For pupils from military service families in Hampshire
 5th June – Secondary, 9:45-14:30
 7th June – Primary, 9:45-14:30

Opportunities for pupils:

- Visit a university campus, share experiences with current students and talk to lots of other people from service families.
- Give Hampshire's teachers your top tips for supporting service children.

Opportunities for teachers:

- CPD session focused on supporting service children.
- Networking and sharing experiences with other professionals who support service children.

UWIN Aspire Hampshire County Council UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER



Service Children in State Schools – SCISS

SCISS is a voluntary affiliated network of state-maintained schools in England that have any number of Service children on roll.

SCISS 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's Armed Forces Families and Safeguarding Team. SCISS brings together a number of the different support

organisations. Many schools in Hampshire are partners in SCISS.

In 2021 SCISS published their findings on the 'The Voice of Schools' survey. This work was undertaken to help schools and policy makers be clear about the significant challenges that schools face in their work with Service children and their families, in order to develop the best provision. Schools in Hampshire will use this work to inform their practice.

[The Voice of Schools – SCISS report](#)

Admissions

Hampshire County Council recognises the disadvantage experienced by UK Service personnel as a result of the fact that they can be moved at short notice. Hampshire's admission arrangements for Service children are set in accordance with paragraph 2.18 of the School Admissions Code (December 2014). [hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/guidance/servicefamilies](https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/guidance/servicefamilies)

The Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) provides a dedicated service for MOD and Service families providing expert and impartial

advice about the education of Service children.

Forces Connect South East has produced an information **video** to support Service families to understand the school application process.

The Hampshire Admissions Forum monitors outcomes for Service families.

For more information on admissions into Hampshire schools for Service children, please visit the Admissions webpages which give clear guidance and further information.

- [hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions](https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions)
- [hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/guidance/servicefamilies](https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/guidance/servicefamilies)

The Admissions team can be contacted at:
County Admissions Team
Hampshire County Council
Elizabeth II Court North
Winchester
SO23 8UG

Phone **0300 555 1377**
Email admission.team@hants.gov.uk



Term time absence for Service Children

MOD advice to headteachers: term-time absence for Service children.

Schools recognise the unique position that Service families are in and wish to support both pupils and their families in cases of leave, whilst operating within the legislation. The following is the DfE advice.

Since September 2013, by law, head teachers are only able to grant requests for leave during term time in exceptional circumstances.

Firstly, and most importantly, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) recognises that the educational needs of the Service children affected will always be a critical factor when determining whether term-time absence should be granted.

The purpose of this advice note is to give additional guidance from the MOD to head teachers on when the operational needs of the Armed Forces may legitimately prevent Service families from taking leave during school holidays; and also to explain how head teachers can seek further advice from the MOD when dealing with specific cases.

As well as operational tours overseas or afloat, there are many situations where the unusual and often unpredictable demands of life in the Armed Forces may prevent Service families taking

holidays together outside term-time. These demands may see Service personnel deployed for lengthy periods of time for training as well as on operational activities, and may also see individuals remaining in their base location, but with full-time duties preventing them taking leave during normal holiday periods.

As with all children, the decision on whether to authorise term-time holidays for the children of Service personnel sits solely with the head teacher of their school. Separate advice is being provided to Service families explaining how they should present evidence when requesting absence during term-time, and reminding them firmly that the educational needs of their children will remain of great importance.

Advice is also being provided to Unit Commanding Officers and their welfare staff to ensure support is only given to those legitimate applications made by their personnel.

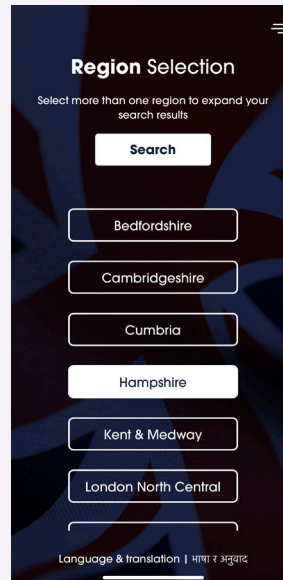
To assist head teachers in making their decisions on absence applications, Unit Commanding Officers and their Welfare staff will be able to provide advice, verification and endorsement as required. If head teachers are unsure how to make contact with the relevant Armed Forces unit they should email the MOD's Directorate Children and Young People at People-AFFS-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Information for families: connecting

Forces connect

Forces Connect is a mobile phone app that was developed by Forces Connect South East – a cross border partnership of local authorities, the RAF, Army and Royal Navy and health and Service charities, using a grant from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund. Its sole aim is to make it easier for the armed forces community to access direct information on local services available to them.

[Discover the Forces Connect app](#)



The Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS)

CEAS provides impartial advice to Service families on a wide range of educational issues including:

- parental rights and responsibilities;
- children or young person's rights and responsibilities;
- special educational needs and/or disability;
- school admissions.

CEAS does not make decisions about a child or young person's education; they advise families to allow them to make informed decisions.

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

Email DCYP-CEAS-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk

Family Federations

- [Army Families Federation](#)
- [Naval Families Federation](#)
- [Royal Air Force Families Federation](#)

The Armed Forces Covenant Website

armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/

Charities

SSAFA

The Royal British Legion

Providing support to Service and ex-Service personnel and their families.

Little Troopers

A charity supporting all children with one or both parents serving in the British Armed Forces.

Reading Force

A shared reading initiative to encourage families to read, talk, and scrapbook about a book, improving communication and enriching relationships with books and each other – one page at a time.

Veterans' Gateway

Information, advice and support for veterans and their families.

Scotty's Little Soldiers

Supporting children and young people who have lost a parent who served in the British Armed Forces.

Forces Children's Trust

Support for children whose parent has died or sustained life-changing injuries whilst serving in the Armed Forces.

Hampshire

Hampshire County Council

Webpage dedicated to information for the Armed Forces Community with links to a variety of areas.

Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

Young people with an armed forces family member may have additional and unique life experiences that may impact upon the way

they a number of different resources that may be useful.

Hampshire Library Service

For children who have one or more parents serving in the armed forces it can be difficult to explain why they sometimes have to go away. This blog post suggests some books which may be able to help.

Local Authorities

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

- basingstoke.gov.uk/armed-forces-community-covenant

East Hants District Council

- easthants.gov.uk/armed-forces-community-covenant
- easthants.gov.uk/armed-forces-support-and-services

Eastleigh Borough Council

- eastleigh.gov.uk/our-community/community-covenant

Fareham Borough Council

- [modern.gov.fareham.gov.uk/documents/s4164/xlc-140106-r10-lus%20App%20A.pdf](http://modern.gov/fareham.gov.uk/documents/s4164/xlc-140106-r10-lus%20App%20A.pdf)

Gosport Borough Council

- gosport.gov.uk/article/1852/Armed-Forces-Covenant
- gosport.gov.uk/gosportarmedforcescommunity

Hart District Council

- hart.gov.uk/armed-forces-information

Havant Borough Council

- havant.gov.uk/community-and-living/armed-forces
- havant.gov.uk/armed-forces-support-and-services

Portsmouth City Council

- portsmouth.gov.uk/services/council-and-democracy/your-city/portsmouths-armed-forces-covenant/

Rushmoor Borough Council

- rushmoor.gov.uk/armedforcescovenant

Southampton City Council

- southampton.gov.uk/people-places/community-involvement/armed-forces-covenant.aspx
- southampton.gov.uk/jobs/armed-force-community/information-support.aspx
- southampton.gov.uk/jobs/armed-force-community/

Test Valley Borough Council

- testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/corporatedirection/armedforcescovenant
- testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/heroes-welcome-test-valley

Winchester City Council

- winchester.gov.uk/community-recreation/armed-forces-community-covenant

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