

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT SNAPSHOT



SUPPORTING EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN FROM SERVICE FAMILIES IN ENGLAND

The Covenant is a promise from the nation ensuring that those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces and their families are treated fairly

Part of fair treatment is about making sure children of members of the Armed Forces receive the same standard of, and access to, education as any other UK citizen in the area in which they live.

Additional pastoral support for Service Children

The **Service Pupil Premium** (introduced by the Department for Education) and the **MOD Education Support Fund** both allocate funds annually to schools to enable them to provide additional pastoral support to children from Service families. This means that schools can, for example: provide support to a child whose parent has been deployed away from home, or give them extra support in settling into a new school. To make sure that your child is registered as a Service child on the school census, you must inform your school by the annual deadline in January.

The School Admissions Code

The **School Admissions Code** includes a number of provisions to ensure that children of UK Service personnel are not disadvantaged when applying for a school place. These include the requirement for admissions authorities to allocate a school place in advance of the family moving into the area; the ability of admissions authorities to prioritise (if they so wish) children who are

eligible for the **Service Pupil Premium** in the admissions process; and ensuring Service children are exempt from limits on the size of infant classes.

Term time absences

The Department for Education and the MOD have issued advice to Headteachers in England providing guidance on when the operational needs of the Armed Forces may prevent Service families from taking holiday together during the school holidays. There is separate advice available for Service personnel, detailing how they should present the evidence when making this request.



To learn more about accessing these services, visit: <https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/> and follow the link to 'Support and advice'

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

SNAPSHOT



There are differences between the education systems of the four nations of the United Kingdom. In Scotland, education is a devolved matter.

The Armed Forces in Scotland, the Scottish Government, local authorities, schools and other partners work to make sure that children and young people in Service families benefit from the same standard of and access to education as any other child or young person in their area.

The MOD's Directorate for Children and Young People (DCYP) also has a strategic working partnership with the Scottish Government and other key stakeholders, and employs a Parent Support Officer in Scotland to provide Service families with confidential and professional educational advice for their children and young people.

Additional support for Service Children

Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) was introduced in Scotland to try to make sure that every child is happy, safe, achieving their best, nurtured, active, included and respected.

Education Scotland provides support and resources to practitioners involved

SUPPORTING EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN FROM SERVICE FAMILIES IN SCOTLAND

The Covenant is a promise from the nation ensuring that those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces and their families are treated fairly

Part of fair treatment is about making sure children of members of the Armed Forces receive the same standard of, and access to, education as any other UK citizen in the area in which they live.

in transitions for service children. It has created a professional learning resource specifically about the education of learners from Service families, which aims to improve the capacity of Scottish schools to respond to the needs of children and young people from Service Families.

National Transitions Officer

Scotland has a National Transitions Officer (NTO); a role dedicated to the support of children from Service families and funded by the MOD Education Support Fund. The NTO works with local authorities, schools, children's services partners, and the Armed Forces. By influencing policy and practice, the NTO aims to ensure continuous improvements in the educational experiences and educational outcomes for children from Service families.

Parents/carers within the Armed Forces (Regular, Reserve and Veterans) are encouraged to ensure that the Headteacher of their child's school is aware of their Service status so that the school is able to work in partnership to provide informed support if and when it is needed.

School admissions

Each local authority in Scotland has their own school admissions policy. Local authorities with a known Armed Forces presence usually have arrangements for the admissions of Service children into schools to ensure these changes happen smoothly.

Term time absences

The Scottish Government guidance *Included, engaged and involved – part 1: Attendance in Scottish schools*, clarifies that in exceptional domestic circumstances family holidays during term time can be recorded as authorised absence, for example when a family needs time together to recover from distress, or where a parent's employment is of a nature where leave during school holidays cannot be accommodated.



**ARMED FORCES
COVENANT**

To learn more about accessing these services, visit: <https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/> and follow the link to 'Support and advice'

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT SNAPSHOT



Additional support for Service Children

Schools in Wales are inclusive, and the Welsh Government has pledged its commitment to supporting Armed Forces families. They have moved away from targeting specific groups with funding and instead ensure that grants are inclusive of all learners.

The **MOD Education Support Fund** allocates funds annually to schools to enable them to provide additional support to children from Service families. This means that schools can, for example, provide support to a child whose parent has been deployed away from home, or give them extra support in settling into a new school.

To make sure that your child is registered as a Service child you should inform your school when applying for a place and by the annual census in January.

Recently, the **MOD Education Support Fund** has allocated grants to schools to help with a number of projects to support Service children, for example:

SUPPORTING EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN FROM SERVICE FAMILIES IN WALES

The Covenant is a promise from the nation ensuring that those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces and their families are treated fairly

Part of fair treatment is about making sure children of members of the Armed Forces receive the same standard of, and access to, education as any other UK citizen in the area in which they live.

- A secondary school in Wales was able to develop a training and mentoring programme to improve pupils' confidence and team building, enhancing their integration into the school community. In addition, they were also able to provide dedicated Learning Support to help when pupils first arrived at the school, and to assist with the identification of gaps in knowledge and the differences between curricula.

- A junior school in Brecon, with 35% children from Service families was successful in gaining funding from the ESF in 2013 towards a Literacy and Numeracy Support Assistant and an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. The Assistants worked with pupils to identify gaps in learning, giving them earlier access to intervention programmes. 60% of pupils now indicate they are confident about moving schools, making new friends and meeting new challenges.

Schools admissions

In Wales, the Armed Forces Covenant means that you are able to apply for a school place for your child prior to moving to the area (as long as you have a postcode).

Welsh Language and Service Children

All children at school in Wales learn Welsh, the country's national language. The Welsh Government recognises that learners for whom Welsh is an additional language have different challenges in relation to language and literacy, and as such provide focused support.

Term time absences

Supporting Service Children in Education Cymru (SSCE Cymru) is promoting awareness across Wales regarding the consideration of authorised term time leave for Service Children who are affected by a parent's active service, for example, when families are unable to take a holiday together due to restricted leave.

There is separate advice available for Service personnel, detailing how they should present evidence when making this request.



**ARMED FORCES
COVENANT**

To learn more about accessing these services, visit: <https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/> and follow the link to 'Support and advice'