



 **THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST**
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**CLOSING
THE GAP**
SUPPORTING OUR
MILITARY FAMILIES

The Wavell School

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Context

- Large secondary school on the Farnborough and Aldershot border with over 1000 students.
- We have higher than national average numbers of students who are Service and who have an EHCP
- Currently 20% of our cohort are Service (209 students) 19% of these have SEN
- We have an excellent and long-standing working relationship with the Army Welfare Service



Challenges

- Service children typically attain lower results in Maths and English despite strong attendance.
- Fewer Service students achieve 8 strong GCSE grades compared with non-Service peers.
- The progress gap is narrowing but still remains.
- Lack of an EHCP creates additional challenges for Service-SEN pupils.
- Students highlighted the need for a dedicated academic and pastoral support space.
- Over 40% reported anxiety during parental deployment, affecting focus and homework.
- Students requested targeted support with exam technique and Maths due to limited help at home.
- Many expressed a need for additional emotional support.



Project application

1. Closing the academic gap in attainment between service and non-service pupils, using data-led evidence.
2. Addressing the needs of service pupils with Special Educational Needs using a coordinated approach.
3. Addressing the impact of the effects of family mobility/deployment and separation on service pupils' education.



Project Overview – Closing the Gap

This project will improve the educational attainment of service children by:

- providing targeted academic support
- improving access to digital resources, and dedicated pastoral oversight.
- creating a dedicated learning space,
- deploying a specialist Learning Coach
- providing tailored educational software to support the principle of "anytime, anywhere" learning.



Supporting Learning

- Introduction of **Sparx Maths**
- Introduction of **Sparx Reader**
- **Camo Club homework** – staffed by Learning Coach with a focus on Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader
- **Targeted invitations** to Camo Club for students with incident slips for non-completion of homework
- Military Students being offered **Easter Revision sessions** as part of first round of invites





Supporting Student Wellbeing

- **Camo Club** relaunched – military breakfast drop in – average of 24 KS3 students attending weekly
- Working with the **Army Welfare Service** to provide support for students through targeted referrals
- **Fortify Youth Mentoring** groups with at least 50% military in each group – supported by AWS
- Introduction to Podcast course run with **ArtsWork** – supported by AWS
- Collection of **Deployment Data** to provide support during difficult times





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Upcoming Events

- An author visit for all service children across Years 7 – 10 with Meg Rosoff and Reading Force
- A student voice conference for our service family pupils to share their views with leaders in the school
- Year 9 attending Armed Forces Day in June





Student Voice

- Year 7 Student:
 - 'Camo Club has helped me make friends'
 - 'Sometimes form is just too much on a Monday morning, Camo Club helps me start the week.'
- Year 9 Student:
 - 'I usually go [to Homework Drop In] for English and Maths support, but sometimes other subjects too. I enjoy the help that I get there.'



Defining the Culture at Wavell

- Military Students are flagged as a Priority Group on seating plans and student profiles for all staff to see



- We are raising the profile of Service Students across the school through Prefect Roles, Student Leadership, and increased engagement with the local community



What is next...

Student Voice

- Introduction of a Youth Military Student Voice representative in each year group as part of the student council
- A military student conference for students from each year group to provide feedback on what the lived experience of a Military Child is and how we can support them



What is next...

Support for Families and Students

- Review of our Military Family support page on our school website to provide more information regarding local and national support
- Data collection to ensure regimental data is up to date with parents encouraged to share deployment information where possible to enable us to support students
- Camo Club to be part of our induction process for Military Move students



What is next...

Wider Community

- Building relationships with SPP champions in local schools to share what we are doing, and discover what other schools are doing
- Hosting Army Youth Voice sessions at The Wavell to support engagement with Army Welfare Support
- Creation of a local SPP Champion Panel to share and learn from other schools