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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



MONTHLY BULLETIN

APRIL 2024



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 CLILC
WLGA

Message from the SSCE Cymru team...

“Welcome back! We hope that you all enjoyed your Easter break and you’re now ready for the new term. Here in the UK, April is known to be the month of sunshine and showers and for the SSCE Cymru team it is a calendar highlight. April sees us celebrate international [Month of the Military Child](#) (MotMC), giving our school communities a wonderful opportunity to recognise any Service children / young people on their role, encouraging them to take some time to express appreciation for their unique way of life through various fun activities. For inspirational ideas please visit our dedicated MotMC webpage and don’t forget to let us know how you will be celebrating this year. We would LOVE to hear from you, so please tag us in any of your school social media posts and we will give you a BIG shout out for being Armed Forces Friendly and advocates for your Service children. #MotMCCymru #SSCECymru

From 1st April, there have been some changes to the structure of the SSCE Cymru team and the way we manage our workload. School engagement will now be delivered through a series of drop-in sessions scheduled every month. These informal, one-hour drop-in sessions will focus on specific themes. Come along to any of the sessions that interest you, where members of the SSCE Cymru team will share relevant information, promote resources, coordinate discussions, answer your questions and create opportunities for collaboration. See further information about the drop-in session themes, the timetable for April / May and joining instructions [here](#). We hope to see lots of familiar faces alongside plenty of new ones.

In the meantime, should you have any further questions or need advice on any matters regarding Service children in education here in Wales, then please contact us via SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk.”



Millie
Programme
Manager



Jo
Participation
Lead Officer



Cara
School Liaison
Officer



Yasmin
School Liaison
Officer

SSCE Cymru team

From 1st April, the structure of the SSCE Cymru team will be changing as we will no longer have Regional School Liaison Officers (RSLOs).

Programme Manager



Millie

- Coordinates and delivers SSCE Cymru activities aligned to the SSCE Cymru mission.
- Ensures Service children's experiences are understood and responded to in Wales.
- Represents Wales to share good practice across the UK.

School Liaison Officers (SLOs)



Yasmin



Cara

- Work with schools and local authorities to identify Service children and maintain a database of school contacts.
- Promote the SSCE Cymru e-learning package.
- Work with education settings to embed support for Service children:
 - Utilise SSCE Cymru resources (School Toolkit and Tools, Funding guidance)
 - Achieve their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status
 - Celebrate Month of the Military Child
 - Access funding to support Service children and families.
- Identify and promote good practice in schools.

Participation Lead Officer (PLO)



Jo

Works with schools to:

- Listen to Service children
- Set up Service children clubs
- Facilitate opportunities for Service children to come together to share their experiences
- Celebrate Service children's experiences
- Share the voices of Service children.





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Month of the Military Child Mis y Plentyn Milwrol



April/Ebrill | #MotMCCymru

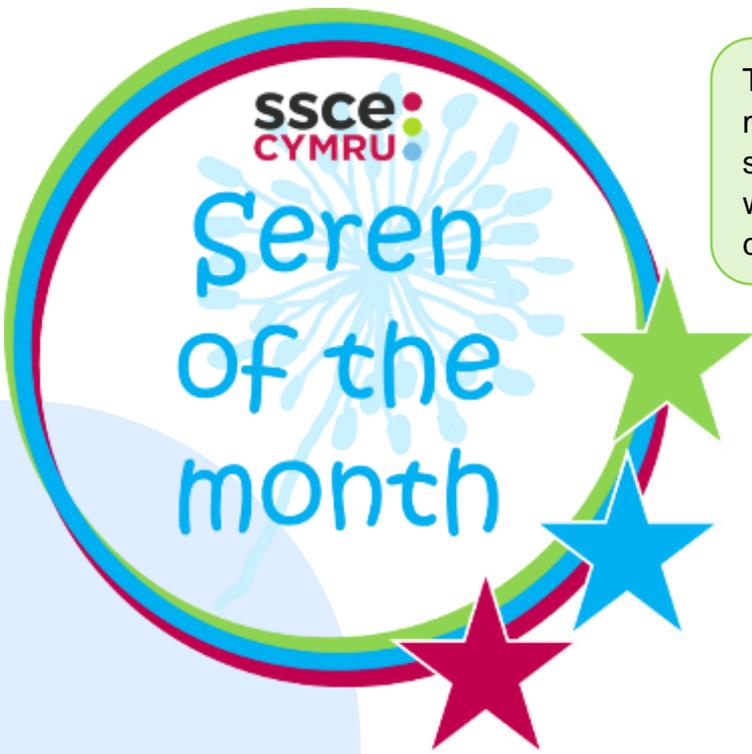
Ways for schools to get involved...

- Understand
- Engage
- Celebrate



See further
information
here

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IN EDUCATION WALES
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This is an opportunity for our team to publicly recognise an SSCE Cymru STAR, and say thank you to a Service child, member of school staff, work colleague, network member or organisation that have positively collaborated with us or shown exceptional support to Service children in education and their local Armed Forces community. We are grateful to work with some truly inspiring individuals and groups who ensure that Service children continue to feel valued and celebrated here in Wales.

Seren of the month – April 2024

Ralph and Harry are aged 6 and in Year 1 in Baglan Primary School in Neath Port Talbot.

Their daddy is a Pilot in the Army, and lives on camp during the week. They are super excited when daddy comes home on the weekend, but also find it tough when he is deployed overseas.

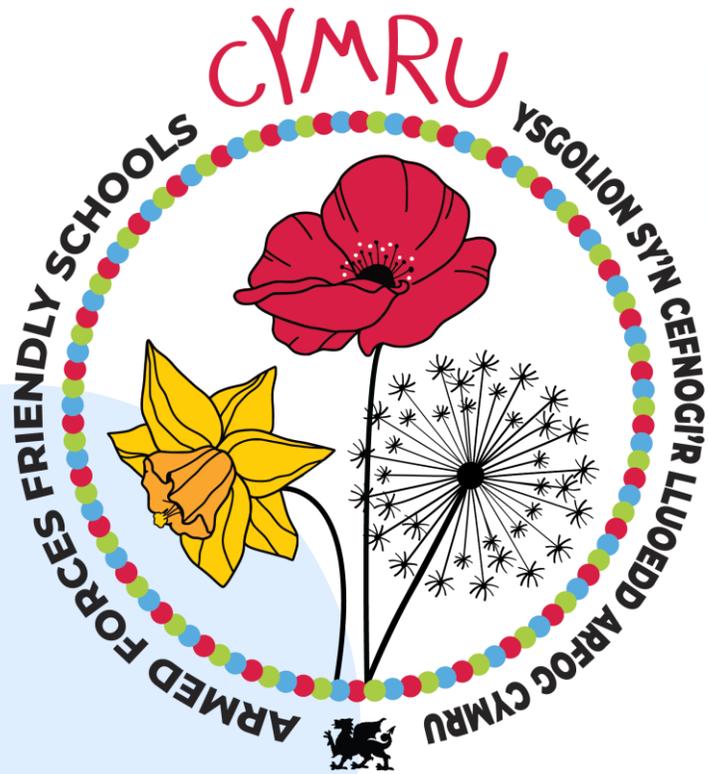
Ralph and Harry love school, especially playing with their friends and performing on stage! As most 6-year-old boys, they are very busy, and are involved in kickboxing, football, rugby and swimming. Their favourite things to do with daddy when he is home is playing football in the garden, play mousetrap, go on the beach and wash mummy's car!

They are both excellent members of Baglan Primary School's Little Troopers Club. We are so proud that while their Daddy is currently deployed on operational tour they have kept smiling!

Thank you, Ralph and Harry and your wonderful family!



Ralph & Harry
Service children at
Baglan Primary School



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IN EDUCATION IN WALES

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SSCE Cymru's Armed Forces Friendly Schools (AFFS) Cymru initiative was launched in 2022. Schools in Wales complete a series of activities and actions that are linked to the SSCE Cymru School Checklist, including some compulsory elements, in order to achieve their Bronze, then Silver, then Gold status. The objectives are to embed good practice for supporting Service children, create a positive environment for Service children to share their experiences and encourage schools to become more engaged with their Armed Forces community.

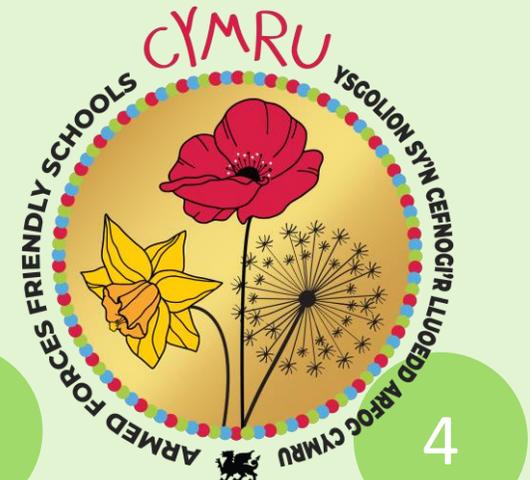
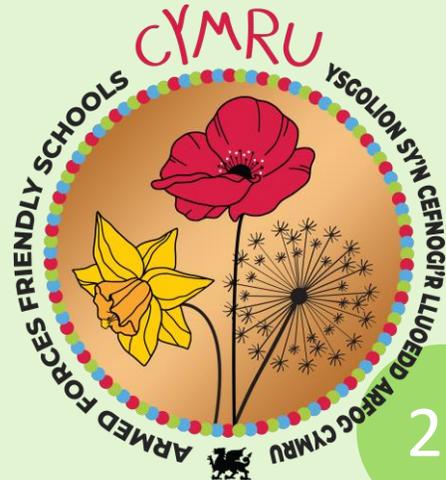
This month, we are pleased to congratulate the following school for achieving their AFFS Cymru status:

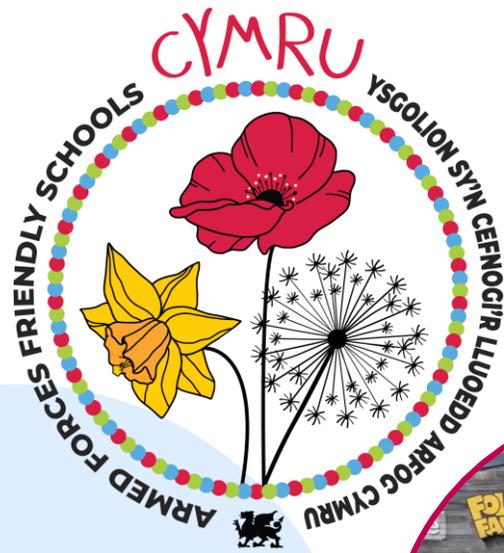
Bronze: Pontarddulais Primary School (Swansea)

Bronze: Rydal Penrhos (Conwy)

Silver: Prendergast C.P School (Pembrokeshire)

Congratulations to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. So far, 23 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 23 have achieved Bronze, 6 have achieved Silver and 4 have achieved Gold!!!





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SSCE Cymru e-learning



**ARMED FORCES
COVENANT**
LLUOEDD ARFOG
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To celebrate Month of the Military Child in April, the SSCE Cymru team are excited to launch our highly anticipated **NEW** on-demand, bi-lingual, e-learning training package on ***Supporting Service children in education in Wales!!!!***

Funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, the SSCE Cymru e-learning training package has been designed to give educators the tools and confidence to understand and support the needs of Service children within their education settings in Wales however, the training can be accessed by anyone who would like to learn more about supporting Service children within education.

This **FREE** training package consists of nine topics and will take roughly two hours to complete. Your progress will be saved so that you can continue where you left off and revisit the training as required.

**NOW
AVAILABLE**

Topics included in the e-learning are:

- Introduction to SSCE Cymru
- Armed Forces in Wales
- Service children's experiences
- Education in Wales
- Identifying Service children
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Extra-curricular activities
- Funding to support Service children
- Research and evidence.



Further information...

SSCE Cymru ALN survey

SSCE Cymru is conducting a survey with schools in Wales to gain a snapshot of the challenges schools may be facing in supporting Service children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN), and to identify examples of good practice.

The survey is estimated to take between 5-15 minutes to complete.

The information provided will be used to inform practice and policy in relation to supporting Service children with ALN.

Survey deadline: 31st July 2024.

 **Click here to complete the survey**



SSCE Cymru data collection

Last year's data held by SSCE Cymru indicate that over 35% of schools in Wales have Service children enrolled, with around half of those having only 1 or 2 Service children.

SSCE Cymru would like to ensure we have a strong understanding of the number and location of Service children in Wales. Therefore, we are requesting that all schools, if they haven't already, complete the digital form [here](#) to provide us with the most accurate record. We kindly ask schools complete this as soon as possible.

To support you with this activity we would recommend your school consider using the SSCE Cymru [Tool 4 \(Template letter to parents/carers\)](#) or use a free online survey tool (e.g. Microsoft Forms) to collate the data.

 **See further information here**



SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions



From April 2024, every month, SSCE Cymru will host a series of informal drop-in sessions focusing on specific themes. Come along to any of the sessions that interest you, where members of the SSCE Cymru team will share relevant information, promote resources, coordinate discussions, answer your questions and create opportunities for collaboration.

Drop-in session themes include:

- Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru
- Service children voice
- Funding for supporting Service children
- Local authority Action Plans
- SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit.

Plus additional themes at certain points of the year (i.e. Month of the Military Child, Armed Forces Day)

APRIL schedule

Mon 8th

Tue 9th
2pm Month of the
Military Child

Wed 10th
10am Funding for
supporting
Service children

Thu 11th
2pm Armed
Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru

Fri 12th
10am Month of
the Military Child

Mon 15th
10am Funding for
supporting
Service children

Tue 16th

Wed 17th
10am Armed
Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru

Thu 18th
3pm Armed
Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru

Fri 19th

Mon 22nd

Tue 23rd

Wed 24th
2pm Funding for
supporting
Service children

Thu 25th

Fri 26th
10am Armed
Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru

Mon 29th
3pm Armed
Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru

Tue 30th
2pm Armed
Forces Friendly
Schools Cymru



See further details,
including the full
timetable and joining
instructions here

SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions



MAY schedule

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| | | Wed 1st | Thu 2nd 10am Funding for supporting Service children | Fri 3rd |
| Mon 6th | Tue 7th 2pm Funding for supporting Service children | Wed 8th 10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru | Thu 9th 10am Local Authority Action Plan 2pm SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit | Fri 10th |
| Mon 13th 3pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru | Tue 14th 3pm Funding for supporting Service children | Wed 15th 10am Armed Forces Day 2pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru | Thu 16th 10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru 2pm Service children voice | Fri 17th |
| Mon 20th 10am SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit | Tue 21st 3pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru | Wed 22nd 10am Service children voice 2pm Local Authority Action Plan | Thu 23rd 2pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru | Fri 24th |



i See the further details, including the full timetable and joining instructions here



Funding...

Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund (SSCE-WF)

In 2023/24, schools and local authorities (LAs) in Wales can apply for funding throughout the year, to deliver projects specific to supporting Service children in education, linked to the curriculum in Wales.



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government

£1,000 projects – open to all schools and local authorities in Wales.

£5,000 projects – open to schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly School, Green or Bronze status and all local authorities.

NOW CLOSED FOR 2023/24



See further
information
here

**NEXT
DEADLINE:
24th May**

SSCE Cymru funding advice document

This document provides advice from the SSCE Cymru team for schools and local authorities, to assist them when applying for funding to support Service children / local Armed Forces community.

It also includes a checklist of suggested actions to help when preparing and completing a funding application as well as a list of funding ideas and suggestions.

[Available here](#)

SSCE Cymru case management support

Case management is available to schools that have an individual Service child or a very small number of Service children with a specific need related to the impact of their Armed Forces lifestyle.

See further
information
here

Service Pupil Support Programme 2024/25

The Service Pupil Support (SPS) programme will award grants of £5,000 to £80,000 to projects supporting Service children along their educational pathway.

The SPS programme is open to schools, FE and local authorities. Schools are expected to work collaboratively and apply in a cluster of three or more.

Project themes for 2024/25 are:

- Closing attainment gaps
- Addressing the needs of Service children with ALN
- Identifying and addressing the needs of small cohorts of Service children.



See further
information
here

**DEADLINE:
8th May**