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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



MONTHLY BULLETIN

MAY 2024



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Message from the SSCE Cymru team...

“During April, we celebrated international [Month of the Military Child](#) (MotMC), giving us a wonderful opportunity to recognise Service children / young people. WOW... What a month it was!!!! We absolutely loved seeing schools, local authorities and other SSCE Cymru network members take this opportunity to celebrate Service children, taking the time to express our appreciation for their unique lifestyle and thank them for their sacrifices. Month of the Military Child celebrations included a huge range of activities, such as assemblies, dandelion artwork, creative writing sessions, Armed Forces themed physical activities, Wheelchair rugby with veterans and ‘Purple up’ day. Check out #MotMCCymru on [Facebook](#) and [X](#) to see lots of the lovely activities that took place during Month of the Military Child.

From April, there have been some changes to the structure of the SSCE Cymru team and the way we manage our workload. School and local authority engagement is now delivered through a series of drop-in sessions scheduled every month. These informal, one-hour drop-in sessions 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 May / June 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

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.

SLOs are funded by:



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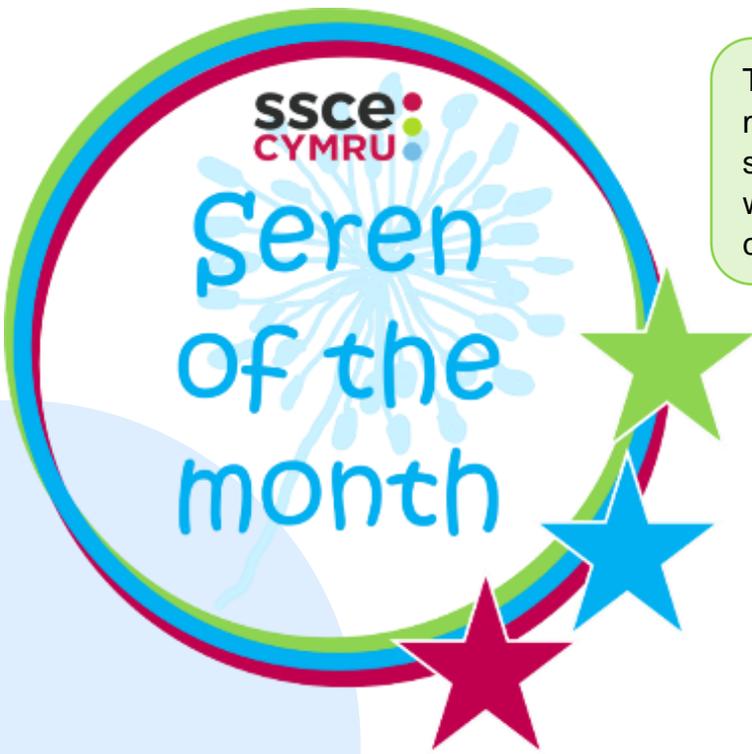
Participation Lead Officer (PLO)



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.



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 – May 2024

SSCE Cymru have been lucky enough to work alongside Kelly since she was given responsibility of supporting Service children in Pembrokeshire County Council, around four years ago!

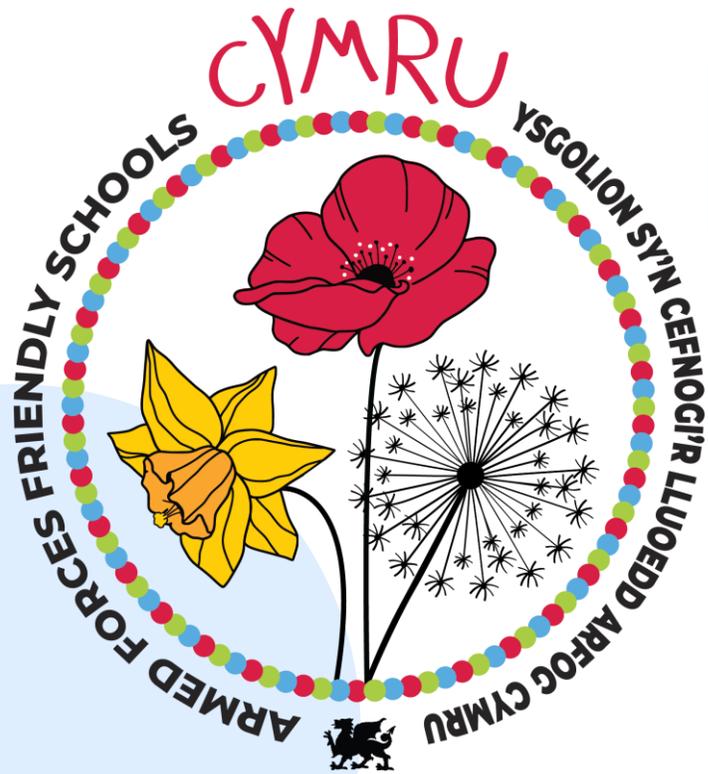
Kelly has been a huge advocate of the SSCE Cymru programme, as the lead contact for the local authority and line manager of the West Wales SSCE Cymru Regional School Liaison Officers (RSLOs). She has always demonstrated a huge amount of support for Service children and improving the provisions available for them in Pembrokeshire.

Kelly has utilised resources such as the Local Authority (LA) Action plan to consider the improvements and changes that could be made to the LA provisions which has embedded good practice, ensuring support for Service children in Pembrokeshire is strong now and in future years. Kelly has always been happy to share her own experiences and knowledge with other LAs across Wales and collaborate where appropriate.

Thank you for all your hard work and support!!!



Kelly Hamid
Education Welfare Service
Manager
Pembrokeshire County Council



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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: Ysgol Eirias (Conwy)

Bronze: Pencoed Primary School (Bridgend)

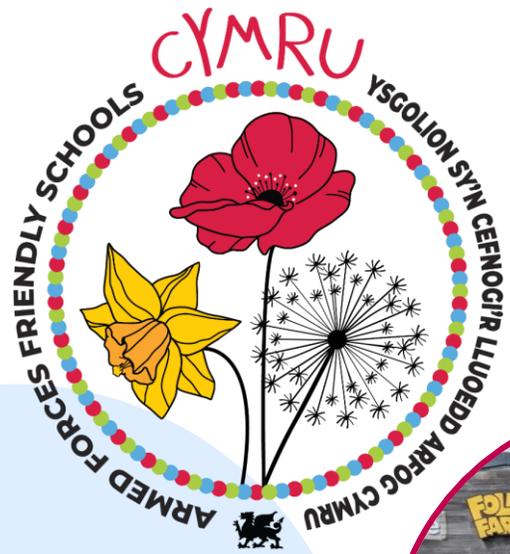
Bronze: St John Baptist CiW High School (Rhondda Cynon Taf)

Congratulations to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. So far, 26 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 26 have achieved Bronze, 6 have achieved Silver and 4 have achieved Gold!!!



i [Click here for further information about Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru](#)





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SSCE Cymru e-learning

To celebrate Month of the Military Child in April, the SSCE Cymru team launched 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.

Topics included in the e-learning:

- 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.

"Hearing from the children was great."

"It was very interesting to learn of the different mobility, deployment and transitions that families experience."

"Great links that I will use and very comprehensive. I loved the videos."

"Excellent information and support available."

100% of participants found the e-learning beneficial

NOW AVAILABLE



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LLUOEDD ARFOG
CYFAMOD



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)

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	Tue 21st 3pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru	Wed 22nd 2pm Local Authority Action Plan	Thu 23rd 2pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru	Fri 24th



See further details, including the full timetable and joining instructions [here](#)

SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions



JUNE schedule

Mon 3rd	Tue 4th 2pm Local Authority Action Plan	Wed 5th 10am Armed Forces Day	Thu 6th	Fri 7th 10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru
Mon 10th 10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru	Tue 11th	Wed 12th	Thu 13th	Fri 14th
Mon 17th 2pm Armed Forces Day	Tue 18th 10am Service children voice 2pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru	Wed 19th 10am Funding for supporting Service children 3pm AFFS Cymru	Thu 20th 10am LA Action Plan 2pm SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit	Fri 21st
Mon 24th	Tue 25th 10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru 2pm Service children voice	Wed 26th	Thu 27th 2pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru	Fri 28th



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

i 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, for up to two years, to support 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.

i See further information here

DEADLINE:
8th May