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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN  
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN  
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



# MONTHLY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2023



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# Messages from the SSCE Cymru team...



## Regional School Liaison Officer for South Wales

*"As we approach the end of 2023, I'd like to thank all of the schools and local authorities who I have worked closely with this year since starting my role, thank you for your work in supporting their Service children. It's been a pleasure to visit so many different schools across South Wales, from those who already have their Armed Forces Friendly Schools (AFFS) Cymru status, to those who are just starting their journey, or those who would just like to know how to support their Service children further. November saw many Remembrance activities and assemblies, and it was so lovely to see so many schools marking this important date. It was also great to support schools in their first round of funding applications for the SSCE-WF. The next round of funding closes 15th December! If you would like support with your funding application or are interested in achieving your AFFS, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Don't forget to check the number of Service children in your setting, and update SSCE Cymru by 31st January 2024.*

*Nadolig Llawen/Merry Christmas! I hope you have a lovely break, take care and I look forward to working with you again in the New Year!"*

**Ellis, [Ellis.Regan@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:Ellis.Regan@rctcbc.gov.uk)**

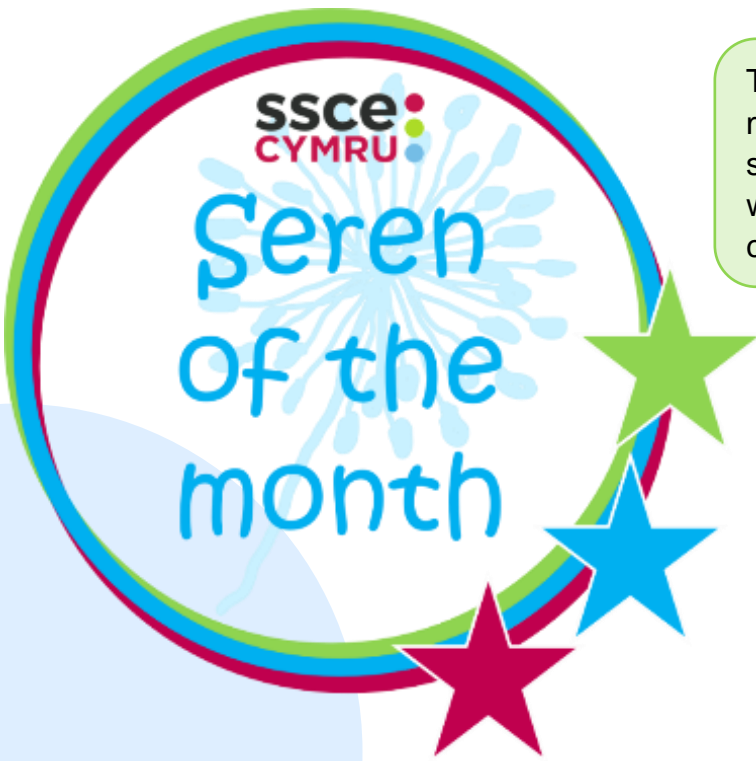
## Participation Lead Officer

*"On the Saturday 18th November a few of our Service children ambassadors joined me at this year's Young Wales Festival at Swansea University. This is an annual event hosted by Children in Wales and allows young people the opportunity to learn more about their Rights. It was an exciting and informative day, where we had an opportunity for our ambassadors to share their experiences and views with the Children's Commissioner for Wales. Please see our journal for more details and if you would like to join our growing list of Ambassadors, then please do get in touch.*

*Nadolig Llawen/Merry Christmas! I hope that you are all looking forward to the break, but for those Service children/young people and their families who have a parent or loved one serving away at this time, you are in our thoughts for a happy reunion in the New Year. Thank-you and best wishes to you all."*

**Jo, [Joanna.wolfe@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Joanna.wolfe@wlga.gov.uk)**





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.

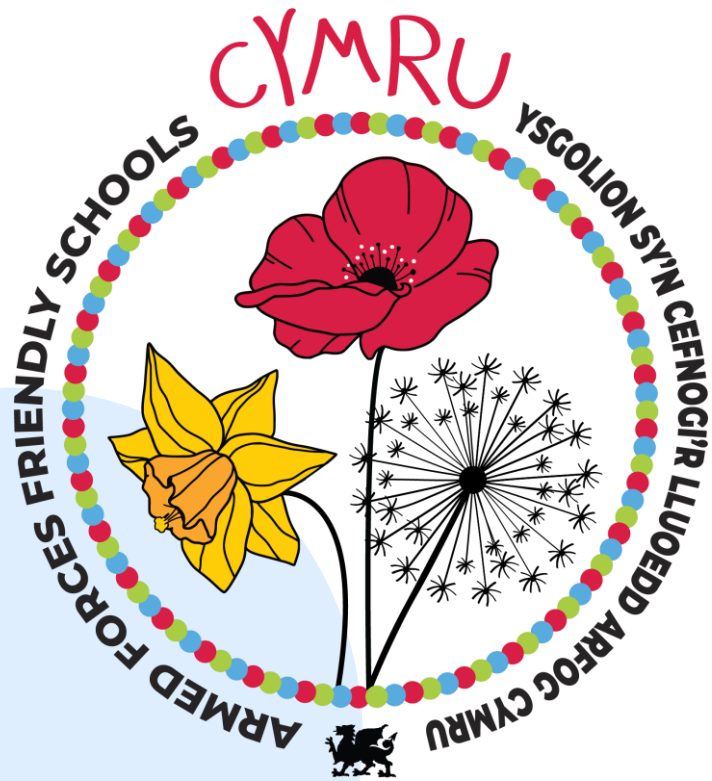
## Seren of the month – December 2023

It has been a pleasure working with Reg at Haverfordwest High VC School. As a veteran, Reg has firsthand experience of the Armed Forces lifestyle and as a result, he understands the importance of setting up a Forces Life Club at the school with his colleague Emma Richards. This has given the Service children at the school and within the cluster an opportunity to come together regularly, share their individual experiences and have fun. Reg has worked hard with his team, and this has shown in the achievement of the Gold Armed Forces Friendly School Cymru status. Reg is now using his knowledge of the SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit and is sharing this to help other schools within West Wales.

**Diolch Reg and the Haverfordwest High VC School Team! Please keep up the good work.**



**Reg White**  
**Haverfordwest High**  
**VC School**



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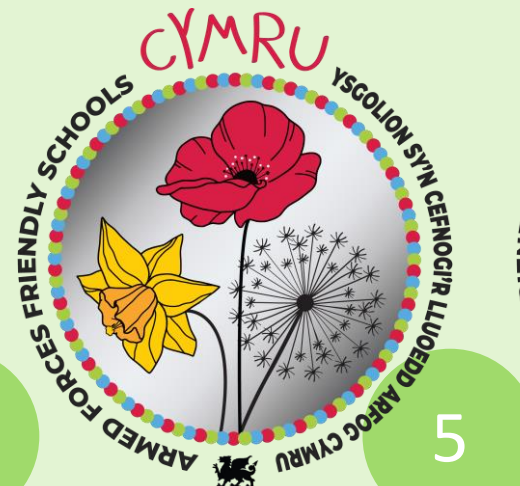
SSCE Cymru's Armed Forces Friendly Schools (AFFS) Cymru initiative was launched in 2022. Schools in Wales complete a series of activities and actions that are linked to the SSCE Cymru School Checklist, including some compulsory elements, in order to achieve their Bronze, then Silver, then Gold status. 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 schools for achieving their AFFS Cymru status:

**Bronze:** Pembroke Dock Community School (Pembrokeshire)

**Silver:** Baglan Primary School (Neath Port Talbot)

**Congratulations** to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. So far, 18 schools have achieved their Bronze status, 5 schools have achieved Silver and 3 schools have reached Gold!!!



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



# Further information...

## SSCE Cymru E-learning

The SSCE Cymru team are very excited to be in the process of working with Walkgrove Ltd to develop a NEW on-demand, bi-lingual, e-learning training package on 'Supporting Service children in education in Wales', based on the content of the CPD sessions which have been successfully delivered by the RSLOs over the past few years.

LAUNCHING  
JANUARY  
2024!

## 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 no later than **31st January 2024**.

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.

Please liaise with your [Regional School Liaison Officer \(RSLO\)](#) for support.



See further information here

# Funding...

## Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund

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 Schools Cymru Bronze status and all local authorities.



See further  
information  
here

**NEXT  
DEADLINE:  
15<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

## 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 and 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](#)