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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



MONTHLY BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2024



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Messages from the SSCE Cymru team...

Regional School Liaison Officer for South Wales



"As we move into the month of February, I would like to reflect upon a year of being in my role as a Regional School Liaison Officer. It has completely flown by! It's been amazing to build upon relationships with schools who have worked with us from the beginning, many of whom are going from strength to strength with their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru (AFFS Cymru) status. I've met with new schools who are just starting out their AFFS Cymru journey and continue to engage with more schools who want to support their Service children further. I've worked with all five of my local authorities here in South Wales, to embed good practice at a local level to help support their schools in supporting their Service children in education.

In January, the South Wales Armed Forces Festival was held in Maindy Barracks and brought together Service children from over ten schools from four different local authorities. The day was filled with fun from Forces Fitness, Never Such Innocence, YourNorth and Marvellous History. Keep an eye out on our SSCE Cymru journal for all the fun we got up to on the day!

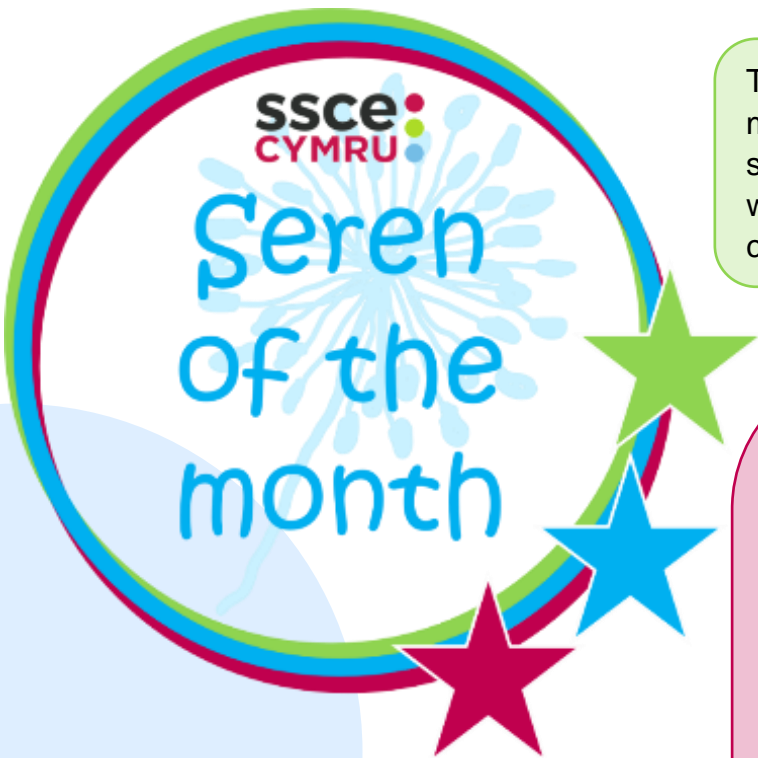
Please get in touch to discuss ideas for celebrating Month of the Military Child in April!" Ellis, Ellis.Regan@rctcbc.gov.uk

Participation Lead Officer

"This month I will celebrate two years in this role and as I take a moment to reflect, I am humbled by all that we have achieved as a team in that time. By working collaboratively with Service children, school staff and our network members across Wales we have been able to highlight the effects that an Armed Forces lifestyle can have on these children. I have seen firsthand the positive outcomes of schools, such as Baglan, Llanfair, New Inn Primary schools (to name but a few!) taking the time to set up Little Troopers Clubs. Recognising this cohort of children, allowing them time to come together and share their experiences. Giving them the opportunity to feel listened to. What a gift that is for anyone, but for a child who has experienced separation from a Serving parent or regularly moving and saying goodbye to friends, it's such an easy, effective way to help with their mental health and wellbeing. I am proud to have played a small part in encouraging some schools to see the value in this and I hope to see more Little Troopers Clubs being established in the future."

Jo, 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 – February 2024

As Deputy Headteacher and ALNCo at Mount Street Junior School, Brecon is a wonderfully knowledgeable and professional member of staff. Mount Street Junior School was the first school in Wales to be awarded our Armed Forces Friendly School (AFFS) Cymru Bronze status in recognition for their work with Service children and the wider Armed Forces community in this area. Having worked in this community for many years, Mrs Waghorn has personally welcomed and assisted many Armed Forces families by helping them to integrate seamlessly into their new environment, often being the friendly 'go to' person at the school, she will always help if she can. And although this is a whole school approach with Mr Hopkins, as Headteacher and all the staff and pupils at this school doing an excellent job of welcoming new Armed Forces families, it's Mrs Waghorn who has engaged with us on numerous occasions. She has demonstrated how the school ensures that they remain inclusive by continuing to show an appreciation and understanding of the challenges faced by Service children, recognising how difficult it can be for these children to move on. Mrs Waghorn is always there to help those who need extra support to manage new situations better.

Thank you, Mrs Waghorn, for all your efforts, it is much appreciated!



Aysha Waghorn
Mount Street Junior
School



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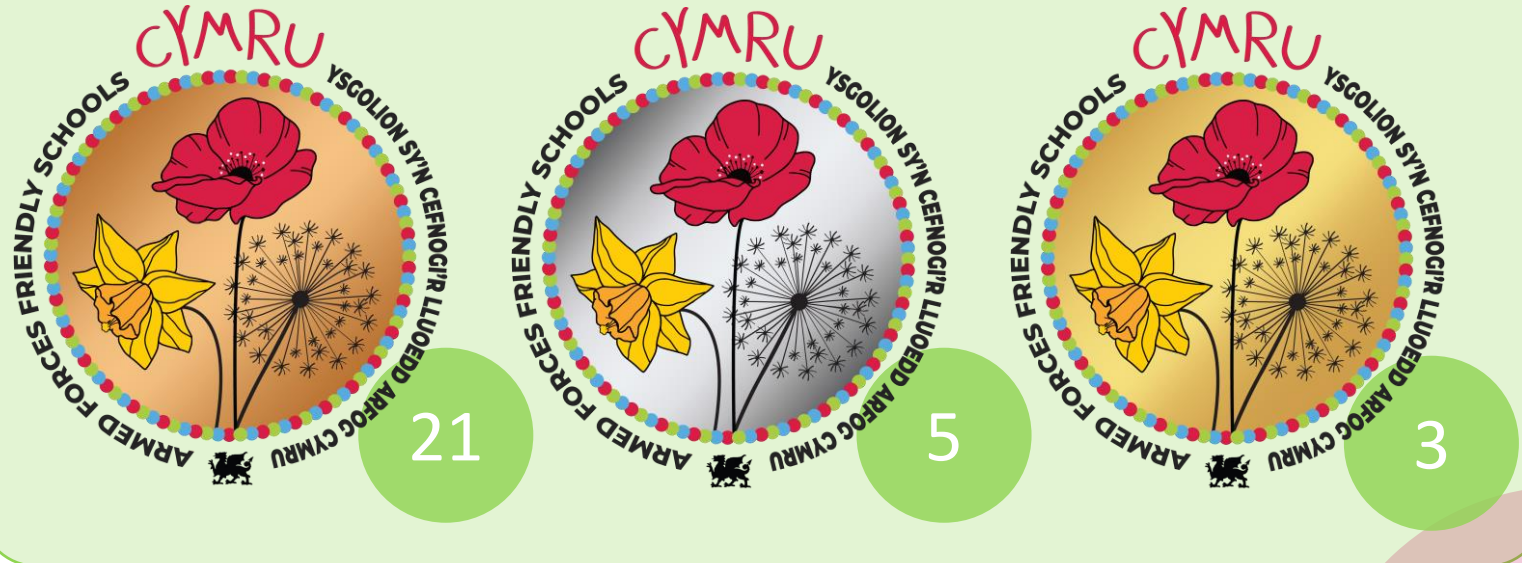
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SSCE Cymru's Armed Forces Friendly Schools (AFFS) Cymru initiative was launched in 2022. Schools in Wales complete a series of activities and actions that are linked to the SSCE Cymru School Checklist, including some compulsory elements, in order to 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 Bronze AFFS Cymru status:
- Tyn Y Wern Primary (Caerphilly)

Congratulations to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. So far, 21 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 16 have achieved Bronze, 2 have achieved Silver and 3 have achieved Gold!!!



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



Events...

Armed Forces Festivals 2023/24

In 2023/24, SSCE Cymru organised a series of Armed Forces Festival events in the four regions across Wales. These events brought together Service children and their peers from across the region to participate in a fun day of activities delivered by several external organisations.

245 Service children with 58 of their peers attended the events hosted at Haverfordwest High School, Raglan Barracks, RAF Valley and Maindy Barracks.

Many thanks to everyone who supported the organisation and success of these events!!!





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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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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
SOON!

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.

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



See further information 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 Schools Cymru Bronze status and all local authorities.



See further
information
here

**NEXT
DEADLINE:
9th Feb.**

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 funding advice drop-in sessions

An opportunity for schools and local authorities to have an informal discussion with the SSCE Cymru team during these regular drop-in sessions held throughout the year between 15:30-16:30. Join the virtual meeting to ask questions, share ideas, discuss collaboration and learn from others.

- **Wednesday 6th March**
- **Wednesday 17th April**
- **Tuesday 14th May**
- **Wednesday 12th June**



See further information about how to join a session 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