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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



MONTHLY BULLETIN

MARCH 2024



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Messages from the SSCE Cymru team...

Regional School Liaison Officer for North Wales



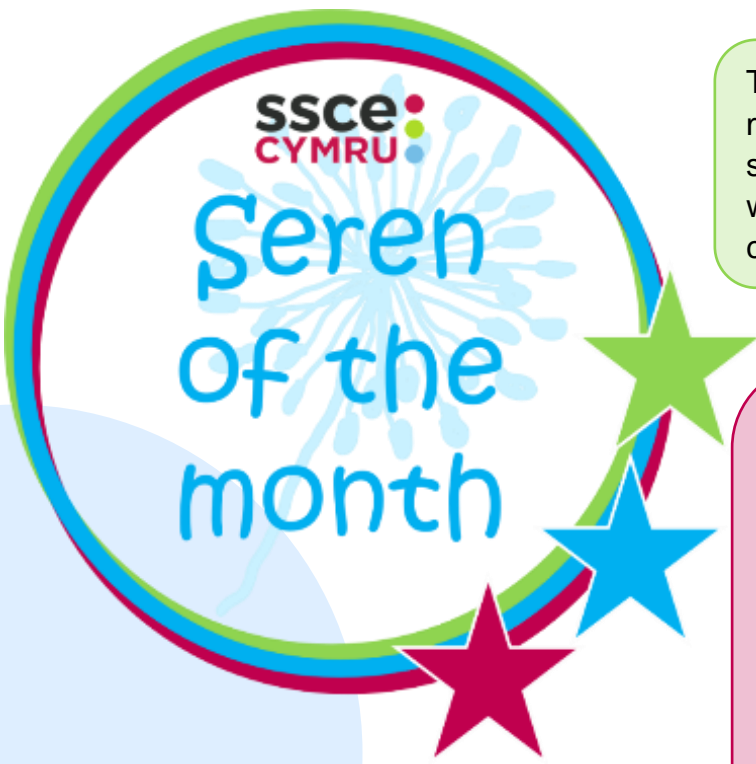
"Happy St Davids Day/Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus! It's been great working with so many schools recently who are putting provision in place to support their Service children further and become Armed Forces Friendly Schools. I'm excited to continue working with my schools and supporting new schools as we head towards Easter. Month of the Military Child is coming up very soon in April, this is an amazing month to celebrate your Service children and their unique experiences. If you would like some ideas on how you could celebrate in April, please visit the [Month of the Military Child](#) page on our website. Don't forget our next virtual funding drop-in session is Tuesday 5th March, 15:30-16:30, please pop along for a chat about all things funding via the [link on our website](#). We look forward to seeing you there.

*I am sad to be leaving my role with SSCE Cymru at the end of March. It has been a great pleasure to work with so many incredible schools, to support them on their journey of understanding the experiences of Service children and to help them embed support within their setting. Thank you for everything you do for our Armed Forces community in Wales. The SSCE Cymru team will continue to work with schools in Wales to embed support for Service children. From 1st April, please direct any queries to SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk." **Cara***

Participation Lead Officer

*"Happy St Davids Day/Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus! March welcomes Spring and brings with it change. Change. The verb is to make (something or someone) different, alter or modify or the noun is an act or process through which something or someone becomes different. Change is something our Armed Forces families know a lot about. Some Service children experience a great deal of change throughout their childhoods as a result of being part of Armed Forces family. SSCE Cymru is about to undergo some change, our team will reduce at the end of the month and the programme as it looks now will be different. I would like to take this opportunity to say a BIG thank you/diolch to our current amazing Regional School Liaison Officers (RSLOs). Emilee, Cara, Emma and Ellis, it has been a pleasure to work with you all and wherever this change takes you, know that you will be missed and that SSCE Cymru will continue to support Service children in education thanks to all your efforts. Best wishes and good luck! For any schools that have worked with our RSLOs, let's look forward to April and make this year's Month of the Military Child a special one!" **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 – March 2024

This month, we are shouting out a big thank you to four Seren's of the month!!!!

The SSCE Cymru Regional School Liaison Officers (RSLOs) have been instrumental in the growth of the SSCE Cymru programme over the past few years. Their personal and professional experiences have brought a wealth of knowledge to the programme, that has enabled us to increase our support package and resources. This means that education settings in Wales now have a much stronger understanding of Service children's experiences and are well prepared to support this unique group of learners.

Each of you has been an absolute pleasure to work with. You are incredibly hardworking, dedicated, enthusiastic and have all been strong advocates for Service children in Wales.

Thank you, thank you, thank you - good luck with your next steps - we will miss you so very much!



Click here for further information about the SSCE Cymru Seren of the month.



Cara, Emilee, Ellis and Emma
SSCE Cymru RSLOs





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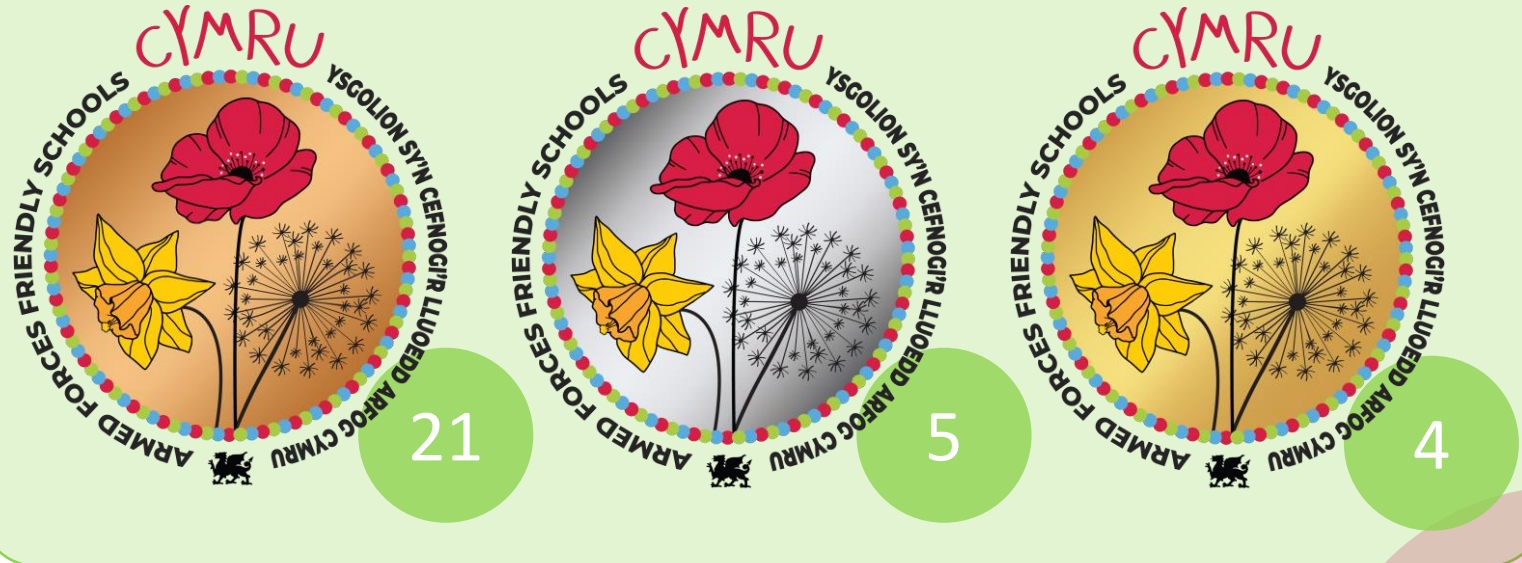
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SSCE Cymru's Armed Forces Friendly Schools (AFFS) Cymru initiative was launched in 2022. Schools in Wales complete a series of activities and actions that are linked to the SSCE Cymru School Checklist, including some compulsory elements, in order to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

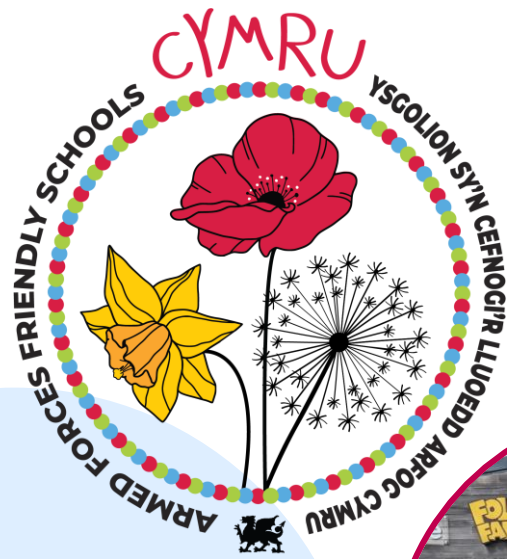
This month, we are pleased to congratulate the following school for achieving their AFFS Cymru GOLD status:
- Baglan Primary School (Neath Port Talbot)

Congratulations to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. So far, 21 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 21 have achieved Bronze, 5 have achieved Silver and 4 have achieved Gold!!!



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





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Further information...

SSCE Cymru E-learning

The SSCE Cymru team are excited to announce that during Month of the Military Child in April, we will be launching our highly anticipated 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.

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.



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.

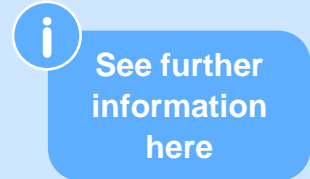
SSCE Cymru would like to ensure we have a strong understanding of the number and location of Service children in Wales. Therefore, we are requesting that all schools, if they haven't already, complete the digital form [here](#) to provide us with the most accurate record.

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.



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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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 10am

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
Month of the
Military Child

Tue 16th 2pm
Service children
voice

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 10am
Service children
voice

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 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, Gold or Bronze status and all local authorities.

NOW CLOSED FOR 2023/24



See further
information
here

**NEXT
DEADLINE:
22nd Mar.**

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

Under this programme, the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust will award grants for stand-alone projects that range between £5,000 and £80,000 for projects which support Service children along their Educational Pathway. This funding will enable Service children to reach their full life potential.

It is expected that this programme will open for in April and the applications deadline will be the end of May.

The themes and priorities are expected to be the same as 2023/24:

- 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

**OPENING:
APRIL**