

Why it is important to consider the needs of pupils from Armed Forces families

Serving, Veteran and Reservist

At the Highland Council

“We recognise that the children of Service families face additional obstacles in accessing the curriculum due to the nature of their parents’ postings in the Armed Forces.

There is a challenge, then, in ensuring that these children benefit from the same standard of, and access to, education as any other child or young person in their area.”

(Scottish Government)

At times our children and young people from Armed Forces families may need additional support due to their unique circumstances or personal challenge: transition, deployment/ separation.

Highland has signed up and made a promise as part of the Armed Forces Covenant which we are committed to and proud to honour.

“The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly.” This means that they should not suffer any disadvantage because they are part of an Armed Forces



We need to ensure that we are:

Encouraging Armed Forces families to identify themselves.

Recording this data on SEEMiS (Highland specific tab: “ASN L&T & Armed Forces”)

Regularly checking the ASN Armed Forces Highland website for updates, support and information.

Reviewing your schools transition process for Armed Forces pupils

Contacting the MOD representative for MLG at Highland (see below) who can provide information or signpost your query/concern.

Accessing specific training to understand and meet the needs of Armed Forces C/YP (Emotional Cycles of Separation)

Sharing deployment information with all staff

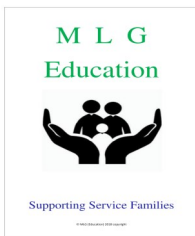
Being prepared to be more flexible with expectations of school work at certain times (i.e., deployment)

Maintaining an open door policy for pupils and parents

Appointing an Armed Forces Champion within school for pupils to contact

Organising drop in sessions for pupils with protected time to talk to ensure that all individual experiences are understood.

Creating a balance is key: We know that C/YP from the Armed Forces want to fit in and not be defined or stigmatised. Checkout the toolkit on the Highland ASN Armed Forces Website for ideas and strategies that have worked for some schools that may benefit your school. Let us know of any ideas we can add to this list that are working for your pupils or that they would like.



In Highland there is the Military Liaison Group (Education). This provides a unique partnership of services and agencies that come together regularly to plan and provide support to children of Armed Forces Families in the educational setting.

We meet regularly so please get in touch to let us know how we can support you.

Contact Lou Kinnear, Promoting Positive Relationships Coordinator & education link for Armed Forces Families at Highland Council
louise.kinnear2@highland.gov.uk. [Click here](#) to visit our Highland Armed Forces web page. Further information can be found at www.armedforcesmorayandhighland.co.uk