



A · D · E · S
Association of Directors of Education in Scotland

Guidance for Armed Forces Families

Let your school or early learning
and childcare setting know that
you are an Armed Forces family
(Regular, Reserve, Ex-Service or Veteran)

**Help your child get the very best
support from their Scottish school**

The Armed Forces Covenant aims to remove any disadvantage to Armed Forces children brought about by their parents' service. There is a commitment to support your child's learning journey through education. All local authorities in Scotland have a responsibility to the Armed Forces Covenant.

KEY REASONS

to let your school know that you are an Armed Forces family

Why is this important?

- ◆ Armed Forces children often experience many changes in their lives
- ◆ When schools know, they can offer support as and when needed, with mobility; deployment; changing schools; making new friends; leaving friends; interrupted learning; levels of anxiety and more.

When can you tell the school?

- ◆ Anytime, during an initial visit, enrolment, registration, at the beginning of a new school year, at any transition or change, or as soon as you are able
- ◆ **It is your choice** to give this information, but in doing so it can help the school support your child.

How do you do this?

- ◆ In some schools there may be a form that you can 
- ◆ As part of the registration package at a new school
- ◆ At the beginning of the new school year
- ◆ Make an appointment with the headteacher, if you wish.

This information will help schools and local authorities:

- ◆ **Understand** how schools can best support your child and work with you in partnership to build relationships, gain a picture of your child's experiences, raise awareness, provide necessary support and early intervention, and signpost your family to activities and groups;
- ◆ **Improve** the local authority support to the school with resources that might help their staff to better engage with Armed Forces families;
- ◆ **Add** to a Scotland-wide picture and inform decisions that help to support Armed Forces families. All of these help **your child** on their learning journey.

*You can help your child by helping their school.
Let them know you are an Armed Forces family.*



All Scottish schools and early learning and childcare settings are committed to **Getting it Right for Every Child**

- ◆ Your child's life experiences are unique, often exciting, sometimes challenging, full of change and transitions
- ◆ Support with transitions, even for a little while, can help a child cope with new experiences.

Scottish schools that know you are an **Armed Forces family**

- ◆ Can learn from other schools across Scotland about activities, programmes and good practice
- ◆ Can help staff learn more about transitions for Armed Forces children and their families
- ◆ Have central staff who can help with resource material and ideas.

What teachers will do for you:

- ◆ Talk with you to understand your child and their learning experiences. Get to know your child
- ◆ Be ready to support you and your child if they know of any move, deployment or service duty
- ◆ In partnership with you, decide what support can be given to your child, when and for how long
- ◆ Support your child in moving forward on their learning journey.

*You know your child best.
Help us to support your child on their learning journey.*



**FORCES CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION** 

Royal Caledonian
Education Trust
Established 1815

*Scotland's Armed Forces
Children's Charity*

www.forceschildrenseducation.scot