

Deployment Support

Deployment is when a service person is serving away from home for a period of time. This could be on an operational tour of duty for 6 months or more, a training course or an exercise which could last for a few weeks.

The Families Federations have collaborated with the Service Children In State Schools National Executive Advisory Committee to create this resource with useful links and signposting to raise awareness of the resources and organisations offering support to help children from an Armed Forces background during times of deployment.



[Service Children In State Schools](#) (SCISS) is a voluntary affiliated network of state-maintained schools in England that have any number of service children on roll. SCISS have produced concise, informative [Factsheets](#), including one on [Deployment and Separation](#), aimed to help school leaders who might be new to supporting Service children.



The [RAF Families Federation](#) (RAFFF) work to improve quality of life for the RAF family around the world – at work or at home. The RAFFF have practical guidance for spouses and partners of [deployed](#) Service personnel and information on [Support for Children and Young People](#).



The [Army Families Federation](#) (AFF) provides an independent voice for Army personnel and families and works hard to improve the quality of life for Army families around the world on any aspect that is affected by the Army lifestyle. For information on deployment, see the Families Deployment Support Guide.



The [Naval Families Federation](#) (NFF) listen to, support and guide Royal Navy and Royal Marines families; they exist to give Naval Service families a voice and representation to those who make the policies and decisions that affect them. The NFF provide [parental absence and family support resources](#); these include 'Recommended Reading' and the NFF Parental Absence Resource, which draws together some useful information about parental absence and separation and provides some strategies to help families thrive.



The [RAF Serving Families](#) website highlights that there are many ways to get the help and support before, during and after the operational deployment of your serving family member including information on what to do in a family emergency.

The [RAF HIVEs Service](#) provides an information and welfare referral service to the Armed Services community and support all enquiries including deployment.



The RAF Benevolent Fund is dedicated to supporting all members of the RAF Family, including serving and former serving RAF personnel and their families. There are a number of services which the Fund provides to support children and are relevant during deployment periods. These include the Children and Young People Counselling Service and the youth support programme Airplay. We also offer parenting support through BenPlay/BenParenting and the Building Stronger Families online portal. Lastly, for families who may need time together before or after deployment we offer breaks. Visit rafbf.org to learn more.



The [RAF Association](#) (RAFA) champions a simple belief: no member of the RAF community should be left without the help that they need. To support children and young people during periods of separation, RAFA offer a Doodle Pack service for RAF deployed parents and children who are looking to get creative. Packs include many items such as colouring books, banners, fabric pens with a pillowcase for the deployed parent to take with them. RAFA have recently updated these packs, and new items encourage outdoor activities and include an amazing scrapbook. To request a free Doodle Pack, RAF families can email RAFA at – Doodlepack@rafa.org.uk.



The [Naval Children's Charity](#) provide support to children up to 25 years old of serving and veteran parents/guardians in the Royal Navy, Maritime Reserves and RFA. Support given to improve the wellbeing and development of children/young people, both in response to identifying individual needs of child/family and providing opportunities to improve outcomes in life. Direct support given as financial grants, holistic advice and support working in partnership with other organisations, and free resources for children, families, schools and other organisations, particularly to help with specific challenges around deployment, separation, etc. The charity has a team of caseworkers that work with families to identify and address crisis and issues they are facing, particularly child-centred need.



[Storybook Waves](#) enables personnel serving in the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary (Regular and Reserves) to record bedtime stories for their children to listen to whilst they are separated. To record a bedtime story personnel should visit their local Aggie's Pastoral Worker who will guide them through the recording process. If an Aggie's Pastoral Worker is not available personnel should contact Storybook Waves via Storybookwaves@aggies.org.uk. You can also find Storybook waves on [Facebook](#).



The Royal British Legion (RBL) offers the Armed Forces community (the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families) support for life. We provide expert advice along with practical and financial support. We're there for the Armed Forces community, whatever the need, whenever it's needed. For more information, please visit our website www.britishlegion.org.uk



The [Service Children's Progression \(SCiP\) Alliance](#) bring together practitioners, researchers, policymakers and funders to build a stronger evidence-base, better policy, and enhanced support for Service children's education and progression, placing their voices at the heart of all the Alliance do. The SCiP Alliance have created an [online resource database](#) which collates videos, guidance, toolkits, templates and more from Alliance partners. They have also produced [The Thriving Lives Toolkit](#) - a free evidence-based framework of seven principles to assess, develop and implement a support structure to best allow Service children to thrive.



[SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity](#), supports members of the Armed Forces community and provides a [Personal Support and Social Work Service](#) for the RAF community.



SSAFA understands that military staff and families face some unique challenges such as regular deployments, having to live apart and frequent moves. Their team provides comprehensive and confidential support, with a special focus on services for adults, but including children, young people and their families.

SSAFA can also support the serving community through its Serving Community Teams, which are volunteer-delivered groups – located in some areas around the UK and overseas – providing practical and emotional support to Armed Forces personnel and family members and financial support by means of one-off grants, direct to individuals or to organisations to fund community projects. sct.interest@ssafa.org.uk

[Forces Children Scotland](#) (FCS) are passionate about supporting children and young people from armed forces and veteran families to realise their potential and thrive. FCS has launched tailored digital support to help young people overcome unique challenges of parental deployment. An interactive [deployment rollercoaster](#) is at the heart of this resource providing lots of information, advice and downloadable resources to help understand how young people may feel at various points of the Deployment Cycle.



[Little Troopers](#) is a registered charity supporting all children with one or both parents serving in our British Armed Forces (regular or reserve). Through its resources, events and programmes, Little Troopers is on a mission to ensure that all military children feel recognised, included and celebrated. The charity has a wide range of [deployment specific resources](#) on its website for families to tap-into at home, including Separation Packs, X-Ray of Feelings worksheets, deployment videos filmed as part of the Little Troopers Therapy Programme and craft activities.



The charity also has a dedicated [Little Troopers At School](#) programme, to help teachers support children and young people through deployment in both primary and secondary schools. Resources include lesson plans, interactive online workshops, a military child wellbeing course template and the charity's SQUAD podcast for military teens.

[Enquire](#) is the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning. Enquire can help Services Families understand how education and support is provided in Scotland, children's rights to additional support for learning, and how to work with schools to get the right support in place.



[Reading Force](#) are passionate about using books to bring Forces children and families closer together at home or away. If you work in a HIVE, welfare office, preschool, school, Service children's club, community group, local library, or charity and work with Forces children and their families, Reading Force complements your pastoral support perfectly. All you need to do is allocate one person to become a [Reading Force Ambassador](#) and register with the charity to order your free materials. Armed Forces families can also access support directly from [Reading Force](#).



[Forces Children's Education](#) provide information and resources to help organisations and schools appropriately support Armed Forces children. The Forces Children's Education website was created by the Association of Directors of Education (ADES), in conjunction with the Scottish Government, Local Authorities across Scotland and the Ministry of Defence. Together with children, parents, educators and partners, they have produced a learning resource on [Supporting Armed Forces families](#) which includes guidance on the [Emotional cycle of separation and loss](#).



The Highland Council have a unique dedicated partnership, MLG (Education), that supports [Armed Forces Families Highland](#). The website has a bank of resources to support families, Schools and ELC settings including a "[Learning and Knowledge Hub](#)" which includes an online training resource: [The Emotional Cycles of Deployment and Separation](#), as well as a dedicated section "[Deployment and Parental Absence](#)". Find out more and explore [MLG \(Education\) WHO, WHAT, WHY](#)



SSCE Cymru is a Welsh Government funded programme, managed by the Welsh Local Government Association. Established in 2014, SSCE Cymru works with all 22 local authorities across Wales to provide schools and other educational settings with a better understanding of how they can offer support to the children of Armed Forces personnel living in Wales. SSCE Cymru have created a variety of [resources](#), [training](#) and [funding](#), coordinated by a team who work with schools to achieve their [Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru](#) status to embed support for Service children in Wales.



If you are aware of other organisations or resources that support children from an Armed Forces background during times of deployment, please email the RAF Families Federation at enquiries@raf-ff.org.uk to let us know so we can help to raise awareness of these, if appropriate.