



When a child starts at a new school, do we really prepare the whole family – or just the pupil?



Myth Busting – Fears

When you hear the
term ‘Boarding
School’ what are your
first thoughts?



Benefits of Boarding

What benefits do you think boarding could offer a Military family?



Research...

- 1 in 8 Military families make use of CEA (Continuous Education Allowance)
- Over 4000 military children attend boarding schools in the UK in 2025/2026



The Emotional Side of Transition

The child's emotional regulation depended entirely on how stable their parent or main caregiver felt!



Emotional Mapping



The Trial Model – What we changed

- Boarding Tasters
- Be a boarder events
- Settling in nights
- New Handbook
- Buddy system
- Pastoral Handover
- Family Events
- Mentoring
- Steer Tracking



What Families Taught Us

1. Parents emotional journey matters
2. Belonging develops unevenly
3. Relationships are everything



Discussion – Lived Experiences

1. What helped that transition go well?
1. What barriers or gaps did you notice?
1. What could have made the family feel more supported?



Practical Takeaways

Whole Family – Whole Journey

- Prepare parents as well as pupils
- Support co-regulation
- Invest in relationships
- Make induction a journey
- Create family networks



What one thing could you try
in your own setting to make
families feel seen, heard and
included?



