

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

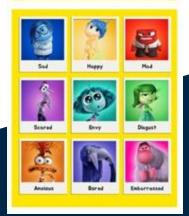
The child's emotional regulation depended entirely on how stable their parent or main caregiver felt!



Emotional Mapping



HOW ARE YOU FEELING?





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 network





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









Service Children's Progression

ALLIANCE