

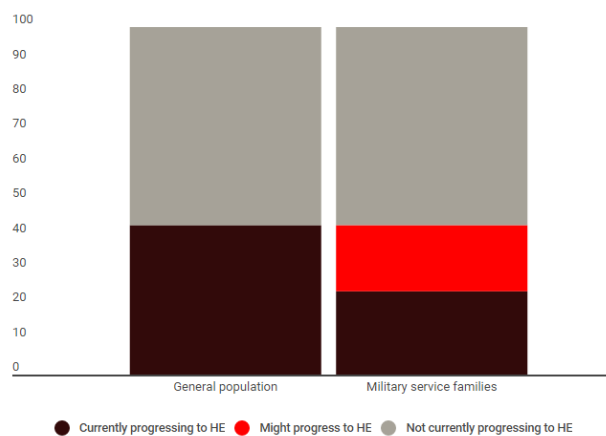
2. For Teachers

2.1 INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

2.1.1 A guide for teachers: Why and how do we support children from military families?

The University of Winchester was funded by the MoD to conduct research into the educational progression of service children. We asked 100 young people at outreach days what their views were. The following are our recommendations from listening to them and their teachers.

Why is it that up to 4 out of 10 of those children from military families who might go to university currently do not? *



This is despite children from military service families achieving at least as well in their GCSEs as their non-military peers.

Children from Military Service families attain well at GCSE but this does not always translate into HE progression.

Children from military families have special strengths

- They are independent and resilient
- Many have experience of different places, countries and schools

But they need support with:

- Transition to new schools
- Curricular gaps when they move schools
- Wellbeing when a parent is deployed
- Spaces to connect with other children from military families and support workers
- Provision of a designated teacher who gets to know them well
- Help to keep in touch with a deployed parent
- Support for parents

Professionals need to be aware that:

- A parent's deployment may affect a child's behaviour. The child may be stressed and so may the parent at home
- The family may be even more unsettled when a deployed parent comes home, especially for a short time
- Children may become young carers when a parent is deployed. Most will take on more chores at home
- School may not be their only priority
- Some want and need to talk, others really don't want to
- Many children put on a brave face to protect parents. Teachers or peers may be the first people they talk to

What can teachers do to support children from military families?

- Make particularly close links with these families so you are aware of what's going on. Find out about deployments
- Show children that they are not alone. Contact other local schools and arrange to get your children from military families together for activities or meetings
- Help their peers to understand what it's like for them. Develop peer to peer support
- Help them make the most of their strengths while supporting their educational progression to put them in the best position to succeed
- Engage with HE providers and ensure that service children are included as a target group for outreach
- Help them keep in touch, write blueys or letters to a deployed parent. Keep in touch when they move schools
- Chase up records and assess new children even if they won't be with you for long – you could be the vital link. Make a connection with a new family as soon as possible. Assess new children and send those leaving on their way with the right prior learning, assessment and wellbeing information for their next school. This is particularly important for those with learning differences.



*Approximate and estimated mean with two main variables: there is no definitive total of the number of military service children in the UK, with several sources giving different numbers; there is no record of those who were brought up in military families but whose parent(s) left the service before UCAS application.