

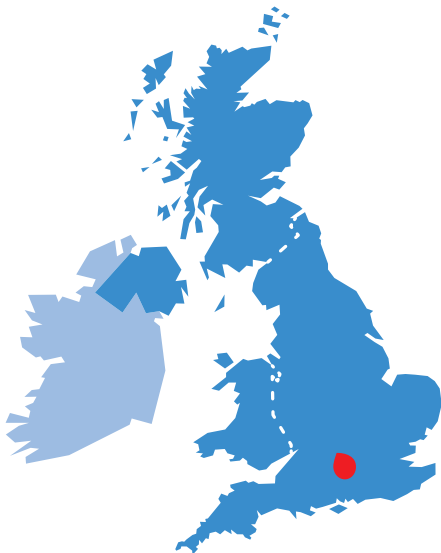
## CASE STUDY



### HERNE JUNIOR SCHOOL HAMPSHIRE

A junior school in Petersfield in Hampshire, 20 miles north of Portsmouth. The town has a small amount of Navy housing and so the school generally has a few Armed Forces families on roll.

7 of the school's 480 pupils are from Armed Forces families.



*This junior school with only a few Service families identified a need to bring its Service children together to share their identity and experiences with each other and with their peers.*

### THE NEED

Herne's Service children have parents serving in the Royal Navy and so experience repeated periods of separation. The school had no mechanism to ensure the few pupils on roll were aware of each other and given a space to reflect together on their experiences. Discussion with parents prompted the school's SLT to look for ways to use Service Pupil Premium and other sources of funding for Service children to bring these children together.

### SOLUTION TAKEN

- Some of the school's Service Pupil Premium funding was used to engage a pottery teacher to work with this group of children for four after-school sessions. The experience of expressing their thoughts together through art was transformative and the school wanted to build on this.
- Working with their Armed Forces parents, the school secured Armed Forces Education Trust Funding for a local artist to use a 'Speaking through Art' approach to give the children a forum to openly talk in a safe environment and to create a lasting school tribute to the Armed Forces.
- The children explored what it means to them to have a parent in the Forces, and decided to produce a celebration of the work of the Armed Forces.
- The project turned the children's artwork into a mosaic which is now mounted at school for the community to see. Every child had a part of their design included in the final piece and they all were involved in the mosaic.
- The group of Service children turned their thoughts into year group assemblies to raise their peers' understanding of the Service lifestyle.

## CASE STUDY

### THE SCiP ALLIANCE

The Service Children's Progression Alliance leads UK and international work to improve the educational progression of the children of armed forces personnel and veterans.

We undertake research, champion better policy and support effective practice to enable thriving lives for Service children.

The SCiP Alliance's UK Hub network connects and supports hundreds of school, college, university and community professionals, so that evidence-based, effective work can be developed and shared nationally.

### WE ARE ALSO

**PROUD** of how this project promoted awareness and conversations among the school's staff.

A member of staff is now designated as the Armed Forces families liaison link.

 The project was an amazing success. The children adored the art sessions and were so proud of the final piece of art. It really helped the Service Children to form a special identity within school and it developed new friendships within the group. The children regularly commented about how it was really lovely to create a tribute to the incredible work their parents do. We noticed that for many of the children who worked on the project, their motivation for school life notably improved and the weekly sessions working on the project were a real chance, where the children felt in a safe and supported environment, to talk about living as a part of a Service family.

Peter Castle, Deputy Headteacher

### OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- Working together on a collaborative project established flourishing relationships.
- Art provided an outlet to discuss feelings and experiences. The project enabled the children to share their pride in their parents' role.
- Participants realised that fellow pupils experience separation and deployment too.
- The project helped participants to see the importance of their parents' work; they commented that it would show their parents that they appreciate the important work they do and how much they missed them.
- Staff and other children better understand the context for these pupils.

### PRACTITIONER ADVICE

- Working with parents was key to the success of this project. Armed Forces parents have the knowledge and valuable skills and contacts to share.
- A small change has led to embedded work to bring this small group of pupils together. This project secured funding for external facilitators but bringing families together to work on a collaborative project is something we will embed going forward.

### FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

<https://www.herne.hants.sch.uk/>

The Service Children's Progression Alliance is hosted by the University of Winchester and supported by the

