

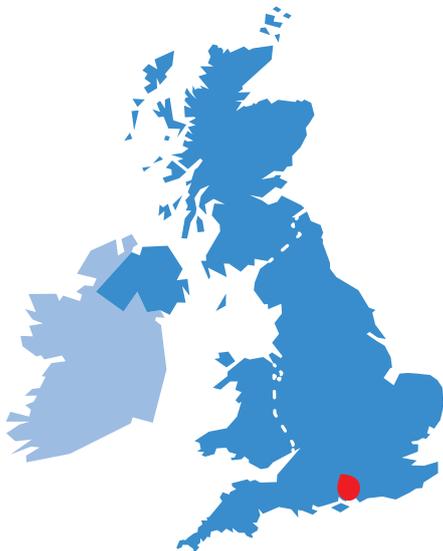
CASE STUDY



Ranvilles

RANVILLES JUNIOR SCHOOL, PORTSMOUTH

Ranvilles is a small junior school in Fareham, Hampshire. 25% of its pupils are from Armed Forces families, predominantly Navy.



This junior school on the outskirts of Portsmouth developed an initiative to connect with and learn from parents on deployment with a whole school approach based on the adventures of Nelson the Sailor Bear.

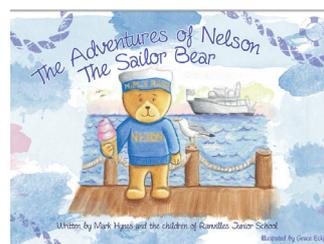
THE NEED

This school identified a need for all its pupils to understand what life is like for a parent on a Royal Navy deployment, to engage parents in raising awareness and to support children through the experience of separation.

SOLUTION TAKEN

Nelson the Sailor Bear is a teddy bear, named by the pupils, who accompanies parents on deployment. He sends the school photos, letters, emails and now posts on his very own Twitter account.

The school developed the project further by securing funding to produce a hardback book about Nelson's adventures. Pupils researched life onboard ship at the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth and participated in writing workshops to equip them to create the book's content themselves. They wrote the introduction and created their own top tips for their peers on coping with a parent being away. Every child, both Service and civilian, receives a copy of the book.



CASE STUDY

●● We celebrate and recognise the immense feelings of pride that children feel about their parents.

(SENCo/CPLO)

WE ARE ALSO

PROUD of our HMS Ranvilles days, based on Nelson's experiences, which take the opportunity to involve Serving parents. The days explore military themes and raise awareness and understanding of Service life in the school community. The 'drill challenge' for example, looks at the theme of perseverance.



OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- The whole school follows Nelson's experiences, resulting in staff and other children understanding the context for Service pupils and their families.
- Parent engagement ensures the school is aware of upcoming deployments and can put support in place.
- The workshops provided a talking point for children to share their own experiences of mobility, separation and deployment. Pupils working collaboratively on the book project got to know each other better and were much more aware of other Service children within school; they developed a support network in school.
- Pupils and their families report that Nelson's adventures and the top tips in the book provide comfort and information before and during separation.



CASE STUDY

●● The children really enjoyed following Nelson's journey and learned so much about life in the Royal Navy through the postcards and book. Service children were able to use the Top Tips to help them when their loved one was away.

(class teacher)

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.



PRACTITIONER ADVICE

- Learn about the 'Cycle of Deployment' to help you understand children's emotions.
- Train all members of staff to be aware of Service children within the school so that early identification of need is recognised
- Build strong relationships with your Serving parents and involve them in the life of the school.
- Child-led activities are harder to organise but very valuable; not only did the children's role in production improve the book itself but the children involved gained skills and experiences and felt listened to.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL AND REFERENCES

<http://ranvillesjuniorschool.co.uk/>

Nelson's Twitter handle: [@NelsonBearRJS](https://twitter.com/NelsonBearRJS)