

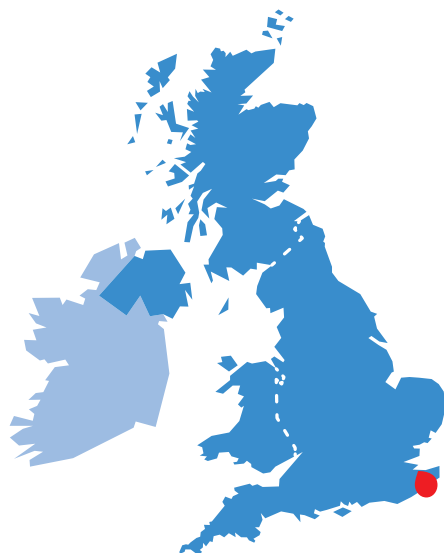
CASE STUDY



THE CHURCHILL SCHOOL, KENT

This primary school is located less than three miles from the 1st Royal Gurkha Rifles (1RGR) based at Sir John Moore Barracks near Folkestone, Kent. It has 24 Service pupils on roll, 5% of pupils.

The regiment changes every three years, so 1RGR will leave and 2RGR will return to Sir John Moore Barracks in 2020.



This primary school in Hawkinge, Kent employs a dedicated liaison officer to establish procedures and mechanisms to support Service families.

THE NEED

The distance of living quarters from the base means that feelings of vulnerability and loneliness often become evident in those left behind when family members are deployed. The regiment's mobility means pupils regularly join and leave the school, needing support to integrate and to prepare for departure.

SOLUTION TAKEN

The school established monitoring mechanisms and employed a Service Families Liaison Officer (FFLO). Close links with other schools ensure clear communication to support the needs of pupils arriving and leaving. Support is regularly evaluated and adjusted where necessary. The 2019-20 focus will be on well-being which the school plans to implement using the Little Troopers Pack.

The FFLO has developed the following support:

- Welcome meetings and coffee afternoons to support transition and building strong relationships with parents
- Termly coffee afternoon for Service parents in the community
- Weekly check-ins with Service parents at the school gate
- Transition support and integration of new pupils
- In-class support for Service children and meetings to discuss individual needs with class teachers
- Family support through pressures such as emotional or behaviour issues or deployment
- Attendance at meetings to support parents e.g. parents evening or meetings with outside agencies


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.

 Nurturing, kindness, guidance and intelligence are moulding my daughter into an amazing human being

(YR parent)

WE ARE ALSO PROUD

of how we celebrate and embrace cultural differences through festivals such as Tihar and hold a 'Camo Day' to support and celebrate our service families.

 I think appointing a Forces Families Liaison Officer has really benefitted our Service children and families, providing a link between school and home.

(Head teacher)

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- Families receive help, reassurance and guidance during periods of deployment independent from services offered by the regiment.
- The impact is both academic and emotional. Service families report that children feel happy and safe in school and achieve well. Our current data shows that 95.2% of Service children are at age expected or above.
- Families report that the transition into school is very good and children settle quickly.
- Teachers observed children to be less anxious and less reticent to participate in learning.

PRACTITIONER ADVICE

- The FFLO's presence on the school website provides a welcome and links to further support.
- The FFLO was originally funded by ESF funding but careful evaluation provided the evidence to justify continuing the support beyond the externally funded period.
- The FFLO has the empathy and experience which comes from being a forces spouse and mother to children who have experienced mobility. Speaking Napali enables her to offer translation support to families.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

<http://www.thechurchillschool.co.uk/>

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

