



Service Children in State Schools

Who are we?

SCISS is an affiliation of thousands of state-maintained schools in England which have Service children on roll and is led by a National Executive Advisory Committee (NEAC) of headteachers, Local Authority officers/advisers, representatives from the three Armed Forces Families Federations and personnel from the DfE and MOD's Directorate for Children and Young People (DCYP).

How are schools identified as SCISS schools?

Initially SCISS schools used to be entirely self-nominating. Since the introduction of the Service Pupils' Premium (SPP) in England, the DfE shares the identity of those schools which draw down the SPP with the Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS), part of the MOD's DCYP. Work is planned to expand CEAS's database of SCISS schools to include all relevant schools. Please contact DCYP-CEAS-2-E1@mod.uk to register if your school is not already included.

What do we do?

The NEAC acts as an advisory group to the Government, identifies good practice in the provision of education and welfare for Service children and proposes solutions to those issues and concerns held by English schools which may result in educational disadvantage to such children.

Through use of the database, the NEAC seeks to ensure that its knowledge of current practice, issues and concerns is up to date and as exhaustive as possible, so that it can continue to be an authoritative voice on behalf of SCISS schools.

The NEAC currently organises a number of conferences which focus on the sharing of good practice. It also publishes a handbook: <https://www.scipalliance.org/assets/files/SCISS-HANDBOOK.pdf>. This resource endeavours to help school / academy and Local Authority staff to understand many of the implications in providing for Service children and to identify sources of further help and information.

What are its achievements to date?

An overview of SCISS and the achievements of the NEAC can be viewed in a short film at <https://www.scipalliance.org/resources/service-children-in-state-schools-film>. These include:

- The introduction of the Service child 'marker' on the annual school census, providing a clear picture of the number and location of pupils of Armed Forces personnel;
- The SEND and Admissions Code now specifically include the education of Service children;
- Submissions were made that were influential in persuading the Government to introduce discrete funding for schools in England to help them provide more effectively for Service children, in the forms of the Service Pupil Premium and the MoD's Education Support Fund for Schools with Service Children (2011-2018).

Our partners

Alongside close working with the MoD, DfE and the three Families Federations, the NEAC has developed a strong working relationship with the Service Children's Progression Alliance whose creation in 2016 was *to bring people together to improve educational outcomes for children from military families so that they can make informed and confident transitions through further and higher education into thriving adult lives and careers*. SCISS resources are currently housed on its website: <https://www.scipalliance.org/>. Links are also being established with other professional bodies.

Core purpose of the SCISS NEAC

To influence and advise the MoD, DfE and Local Authorities on national policy issues regarding the education and well-being of Service children in schools in England and to develop and disseminate an informed national perspective about the issues facing those schools / academies and local authorities which serve them.

Roles and Responsibilities

The current key tasks of the SCISS National Executive Advisory Committee are to:

- a) Continue to represent, champion and raise awareness of Service children, including those of Reservists;
- b) Provide guidance for schools / academies and local authorities, including maintaining a handbook for school / academy leaders and other staff, to help support Service children;
- c) Influence national policy via consultations with government members;
- d) Oversee a 'SCISS-approved' charter for schools / academies outlining good practice;
- e) Address the need of schools / academies with only a few Service children.

The National Executive Advisory Committee members are:

John Stephens	(Chair) Headteacher, Goosewell Academy, Plymouth (primary)
Matt Blyton	(Vice-Chair) Senior Education adviser, Education and Skills Service, North Yorkshire County Council
Andy Heyes	School Improvement Manager, Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service, Hampshire County Council
Russell Collier	Principal Education Officer, Directorate Children and Young People
Philip Dent	Service Children's Progression Alliance, Director (Uni of Winchester)
Phil Bannister	Department for Education
Alex Bostock	Retired Headteacher (Wiltshire)
Steph Fawdry	Headteacher, RAF Benson Primary School, Oxfordshire (primary)
Angela Maxted	Headteacher, Cheriton Primary, Folkstone, Kent (primary / nursery)
Sue Mason	Headteacher, Brompton Westbrook Academy, Medway (primary)
Amanda Rowley	Headteacher, Wavell School, Farnborough, Hampshire (secondary)
Ian Mottram	Headteacher, Le Cateau Primary, Catterick Garrison (primary / nursery)
Sam Johnston	Principal of Avon Valley College, Durrington (secondary)
Bridget Nicholson	Director of Evidence and Strategy, Naval Families Federation
Lisa Thipthorp	AF Covenant Manager, Royal Air Force Families Federation
Jilly Carrell	Army Families Federation representative