

Service Children in State Schools (SCISS)

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?

SCISS schools used to be entirely self-nominating, having become aware, by default or design, of the work of the Children’s Education Advisory Service (CEAS), part of the MOD’s DCYP. Since the introduction of the Service Pupils’ Premium (SPP) in England, the DfE now shares information with CEAS about the identity of those schools which draw down the SPP. Work is ongoing to expand CEAS’s database of SCISS schools to include all such schools – please contact [DCYP-CEAS-2-E1@mod.uk](mailto: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 Government, to identify good practice in the provision of education and welfare for Service children and to propose solutions to those issues and concerns held by English schools which may result in educational disadvantage to such children.

Through use of the database held by DCYP, 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 holds a number of conferences which focus on the sharing of good practice. It also publishes a handbook on the CEAS web pages of the gov.uk website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/service-children-in-state-schools-handbook>. This resource endeavours to help school and Local Authority staff to understand many of the implications for schools 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 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 being housed on its website: <https://www.scipalliance.org/>. Links are 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 and local authorities which serve them.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

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

1. Continue to represent, champion and raise awareness of Service children, including those of Reservists;
2. Provide guidance for schools and local authorities, including maintaining a handbook for school leaders and other staff, to help support Service children;
3. Influence national policy via consultations with government members;
4. Oversee a ‘SCISS-approved’ charter for schools outlining recognised good practice;
5. Address the need of schools with only a few Service children.

The National Executive Advisory Committee members are:

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| John Stephens | (Chair) Headteacher, Goosewell Academy, Plymouth (primary) |
| Matt Blyton | (Vice-Chair) Senior Education adviser, Education and Skills Service, North Yorkshire County Council |
| Hilary Alcock | Headteacher, Buntingsdale School, Shropshire (primary with nursery) |
| Steph Fawdry | Headteacher, RAF Benson Primary School, Oxfordshire (primary) |
| Mary Kiely | Access and Admissions Strategy Team Manager, Nottinghamshire LA |
| Andrew Malcolm | MoD schools |
| 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) |
| Phil Bannister | Department for Education |
| Lucy Scott | Education and Childcare Specialist, Army Families Federation |
| Bridget Nicholson | Director of Evidence and Strategy, Naval Families Federation |
| Lisa Thipthorp | AF Covenant Manager, Royal Air Force Families Federation |
| Russell Collier | Principal Education Officer, Directorate Children and Young People |
| Philip Dent | Service Children’s Progression Alliance, Director (Uni of Winchester) |
| Alex Bostock | Retired Headteacher (Wiltshire) |
| Julie Muspratt | (Secretary) Education Allowances Officer, DCYP |