

Creative Forces Day knowledge sharing for practitioners

This document records a discussion at a sub group of the SCiP Alliance Hub Leads group on 17th November 2020, chaired by Millie Taylor, SSCE Cymru Programme Manager, WLGA and SCiP Alliance Hub Cymru lead. The group brought together practitioners experienced at running events on campus with those planning them for the first time in 2021.

Tips for organising a Creative Forces Day

- Schools with larger numbers of Service children are generally more interested in participating
- Schools with smaller numbers of Service children can be harder to engage with but potentially more worthwhile
 - Barriers include staff time and travel logistics and costs – running virtual events may help to overcome this
- Having someone to liaise with the schools (such as school-based champions) is effective, ensuring an understanding of the Service community in the school
- Practitioners advise targeting either primary OR secondary schools for an event – blending the two makes it very difficult to develop a timetable suitable for all
 - Primary school children invited are generally aged 9 and above
 - Primary schools tend to be easier to engage than secondary schools
 - Running an event for more than 100 Service children would be challenging
- Organisers could consider targeting:
 - Schools with large numbers of Service children (with up-to four schools participating in each event)
 - Schools with low numbers (limiting number of Service children to 6-10 per school)
 - Specific year groups
- Encourage non-teaching staff to accompany the group of Service children helps the schools to overcome barriers of staff cover and costs
- Where a school has only one Service child, they may wish to also bring a non-Service child – which has proven to be beneficial for both the Service children and their peers as they develop a greater understanding a Service children experiences
- Consider engaging with independent schools – utilising local Armed Forces connections to make contact.

Running a Creative Forces day

- Use the SCiP Alliance framework for guidance on creating a timetable – see the example below of the University of Winchester's secondary school Creative Forces day timetable for 2019
 - Timetables should be adjusted each year as Service children may attend year on year
- Identifying HE students that have a connection to the Armed Forces (Service child, veteran, reservist, military spouse) to work as student ambassadors and support the planning and delivery of the Creative Forces day is very beneficial
 - Identify existing student ambassadors or reach out to the student body or to those who identified their connection to the Armed Forces during enrolment
- Mornings generally focus on activities to help participants feel comfortable and understand HE
 - Including a campus tour
- Consider subject taster sessions – successful taster sessions have included:

- Archaeology looking at nature and animals in caves – delivered by a student that is a military spouse
- Doodle workshop with creative cartoon drawing
- Cyber security top trumps – delivered by a veteran
- Journalism where the Service children interviewed each other about their experiences – supported by the local radio station
- Creative writing workshop about an alien moving around
- The Key to Survival
- To be a Hacker
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Mental health workshop.
- Afternoon activities focus on Service children voice
 - Student ambassadors from an Armed Forces background speak about their experiences and explore participants' own experiences and ideas
 - Workshop on top tips that Service children then deliver to the staff – consider ways to deliver outcomes in an informal way creating conversations and dialogue
- During the afternoon, school staff could participate in CPD activities
 - Which should be different each year if the same school staff are attending
 - Focused on developing their understanding of Service children's experiences and action setting
 - Could be delivered by local Army Welfare Service, support organisation, local authority or local subject matter expert if appropriate
 - Follow up with the school staff to measure the impact of the actions taken from the Creative Forces day.

Online Creative Forces day

- Activities and workshops that have an interactive element – post materials/resources in advance
- Use breakout rooms to split into smaller groups with student ambassadors leading
- Video tours of the campus could be pre-recorded
- Extended reality on-line tools could be used to create a virtual experience and reach families in hard to reach areas or overseas
- Consider inviting parents – to participate in an activity in a breakout room (eg. one-stop-shop of information/presentations from support organisations)
- Possible virtual platforms include:
 - Zoom – has good functionality for breakout rooms but some security concerns
 - Microsoft Live events
 - E-vent – for a professional event
 - WebEx – for anonymous participants
 - VFairs.

Feedback and evaluation

- Use the national evaluation forms to measure the impact of the Creative Forces day
- Encourage feedback from school staff
- Follow up with schools in six months after the Creative Forces day to gain an understanding of how they have taken further actions to support their Service children.

Example Creative Forces day timetable

	Group A	Group B	Group C	
				Registration SAB Upper Foyer
09:45				09:50
				Welcome talk SAB 303
09:55				10:00
				Movement
10:05	Archaeology (with snack at the start) SAB 301	Doodle taster (with snack at the start) SAB 201		Snack
10:10				
10:15				
10:20				
10:25				
10:30				Campus activity
10:35				
10:40				
10:45				
10:50				Movement
10:55	Doodle taster SAB 201			Snack
11:00				
11:05				
11:10				Archaeology SAB 301
11:15				
11:20			Campus activity	
11:25				
11:30				
11:35				
11:40				Movement
11:45	Campus activity	Archaeology SAB 301		Doodle taster SAB 201
11:50				
11:55				
12:00				
12:05				
12:10				
12:15				
12:20				
12:25				
12:30				Movement
12:35				Lunch Food Hall
12:40				
12:45				
12:50				
12:55				
13:00				
13:05				
13:10				
13:15	Sharing experience SAB 201			CPD session for teachers SAB 202
13:20				
13:25				
13:30				
13:35	Top tips for teachers SAB 201			
13:40				
13:45				
13:50				
13:55				Sharing of ideas SAB 201
14:00				
14:05				
14:10				
14:15				
14:20	Final talk SAB 201			
14:25				
14:30	Departures			