

We will be recording
in line with our
privacy policy, which
you can find on our
website.

THRIVING LIVES FOR SERVICE CHILDREN

Welcome to the Thriving Lives Toolkit Webinar series

Session 5: Maximising the Toolkit

- All delegates are muted
- Please introduce yourself in the chat
- If you have a toolkit account, please log in

<https://www.scipalliance.org/thriving-lives-toolkit>



FESTIVAL OF FRIENDS

"A school improvement project with the *Thriving Lives Toolkit* at its core"



PROJECT LEAD

Matt Blyton

- Independent Adviser (3 years)
- Former teacher, DHT & HT
- 4 years MOD Schools consultant (overseas)
- 14 years LA School Improvement (N Yorks)
- SCISS Exec member
- SCiP Alliance Management Group



WHAT IS THE FESTIVAL OF FRIENDS?

It is a year-long model of collaborative, peer-supported activity for schools supporting Service children across an area, in association with a local university and (ideally) supported by the Local Authority.

It aims to **develop and share good practice, upskill teaching staff, and encourage Service children (and their parents) to consider the benefits that Further and Higher Education can have post-16.**

All schools are encouraged to sign up and use... the Thriving Lives Toolkit.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

- School Improvement Projects
 - Schools work together, supported by a HUB LEADER
 - They identify (through use of the *Thriving Lives Toolkit*) at least one thing to **improve** for their Service children.
 - Access toolkit CPD
- Project Lead meets with selected Hub School Leads with good practice, half-termly.
- Project (spoke) schools identify a Service Children Champion(SCC) to meet with a Hub Leader in three networks meetings, four times over the academic year, for CPD and support.
- SCCs share key learning with their staff teams.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Celebration Event
- Case Study Booklet



Ancaster Church of England Primary School

Title of project	Raise awareness of our Service families within our school community
Number on roll	197
% of Service children	31 (16%)
How many classes	Reception – Year 6 (single form entry)
Main military base served	RAF Cromwell
Distance to military base	4.1 miles
Are any military member on GfB	Yes
Are any staff Service spouses?	Yes
Service Spouses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2x currently serving in the Army – 1x currently serving in the Navy – 1x ex-Army – 2x ex-RAF

School context

Why the school agreed to take part

We felt that our Service children and their families were not widely represented enough. We wanted their voices to be heard better and for them to feel more valued, supported and recognised within our school community.

Project Overview

A Forces Family Club and team building days will help Service children connect, build friendships and participate in a range of meaningful activities. Our Enrichment Day will raise awareness in our school community about military life, teaching non-military children about the experiences and challenges military families face.

Main Project Objective

Create a network of support for military children and raise awareness of Service children's lived experiences among pupils and staff.

"We are thrilled to see Service children's lives being celebrated more. I have noticed a significant difference in my child since attending the club and PGL day where they are able to build relationships and discuss military child life with like-minded children."
(Parent)

Intended outcomes of the project

- Service children will feel better heard and valued within our school community.
- Pupils and staff will better understand the lives of Service children and how best to support them.
- Service pupils will be able to identify other Service children in school and will be provided with opportunities to develop supportive relationships with these children.

Details of any funding costs

The only cost so far has been the "Wherever Home" production performed by the local theatre company.

What has been the impact?

Children have developed a support network and have been able to build relationships with other Service children within our school community.

Service children feel supported, listened to and respected by both pupils and staff.

Service children have discovered who else within our school community is also a military child.

Children have a better understanding of the ground, and sometimes challenging, realities of some of their peers.

Next steps

- Continue the Forces Family Club, introducing it to Key Stage 1 children.
- Gain parent feedback and provide a support network for military parents/spouses.
- Continue to host an Enrichment Day each April celebrating the lives of military children.
- Provide training sessions to school staff to raise awareness of military children's lives and how to effectively support them.

"I love popping along to the club and chatting to my friends. I felt so proud to be a military child when we held our military child Enrichment Day."
(KS2 pupil)

THE FESTIVAL OF FRIENDS

North Yorkshire & York- A schools' project to support Service children

Autumn 2019 – Summer 2021

Funded by an Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant

North Yorkshire County Council

Armed Forces Education Trust

Oxfordshire's Festival of Friends

A schools' project to support Service children.

Autumn 2022 – Summer 2023

Funded by the Armed Forces Education Trust

Armed Forces Education Trust

Oxfordshire County Council

Lincolnshire's Festival of Friends

A schools' project to support Service children.

Autumn 2023 – Summer 2024

Funded by the Armed Forces Education Trust

LINC-HIGHER

Armed Forces Education Trust

EXPERIENCE OF MAXIMISING THE TOOLKIT

- Reg White – Haverfordwest High School, Service Pupil Liaison

'Mr Reg White and Mrs Emma Richards are our Service Pupils Liaison Team. In their role, they look after the wellbeing and support all of our military pupils and families at Haverfordwest High. During a Service Pupils life at Haverfordwest High, they have the option to speak to our Liaison Team directly, or any of our Pastoral team if they have any concerns or need support.'

Haverfordwest High VC School - Service Pupil Support - Cymorth Disgyblion Milwrol

TOOLKIT ENHANCEMENTS

- Ongoing Assessment
- Case Study Bank
- Example Responses

Example responses

These are examples only and should be modified to suit your circumstances



EMERGING

“ Staff encourage Armed Forces children to offer their views on any pastoral support available.

Copy

DEVELOPING

“ Staff recognise the needs of children from Armed Forces Families.

Copy

“ There are opportunities provided for Armed Forces children to share their views about what support they would like, and this influences some of the support provided.

Copy

EMBEDDING

“ School staff are trained, recognise and respond to the needs of children from Armed Forces Families.

Copy

“ Armed Forces children's views are regularly gathered and these lead to improvements in the school's pastoral support.

Copy

THANK YOU

Thank you for attending our online webinar. We appreciate your participation and hope you found it valuable.

To help us improve future sessions, please take a moment to complete the [evaluation form](#).

Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

