Service Children's Champions Newsletter

November 2026



Welcome to our monthly newsletter!
In these newsletters we will share information about upcoming events, local news and support available for Service children and their families.

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HILLINGDON
LONDON

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN BUNKER

NEVER SUCH INNOCENCE
A CREATIVE PROJECT
GIVING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE ON CONFLICT

Thank you so much to all the schools who attended the workshop day last Wednesday at The Battle of Britain Bunker.

It was lovely to see pupils joining in so enthusiastically, participating brilliantly in the workshops and proudly sharing their ideas and work with others. Their energy, confidence and teamwork was a pleasure to see and we thoroughly enjoyed seeing their creativity shine throughout the day.














THE FIRST WORLD WAR





Remembrance Resources

Here are some resources that can be used for teaching pupils about remembrance this week, including videos and assembly resources.

Remembrance Day - BBC Teach

Contains a video which serves as an introduction to the acts of remembrance on Remembrance Day (11 November) and Remembrance Sunday (second Sunday of November). There is also a free assembly plan.

Teaching Remembrance | Learning Resources | Royal British Legion

The RBL's Remembrance Learning Programme offers a diverse range of free resources for different age groups – Early Years, KS1, KS2 and KS3.

Watch a live online Remembrance Assembly

The Royal British Legion are inviting young people aged 9-14 (Years 5,6,7,8 and 9) to be part of the Remembrance community this year by watching their special online assembly programme **on 11th November from 10:25 – 11:05.**

The Remembrance Assembly is a free online learning event which brings children together from across the UK on Armistice Day. With music, poetry, voices from the Armed Forces community, inspiring locations and plenty of creative ways to remember, it's the ideal way to help young students aged 9-14 connect with Remembrance.

This event is created by the Royal British Legion in partnership with the National Literacy Trust.

Register for the assembly here: https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/teaching-remembrance/remembrance-live-assembly

Here is more information about the assembly: https://literacytrust.org.uk/events/remembrance-assembly/



Service Children's LEAP Page

Through this link, you can access our LEAP page, designed specifically for schools to access information and resources for supporting service pupils.

You will find our newsletters, Resource Tookit and guidance all in one place, making everything easier to access.

The page will be updated regularly.

https://leap.hillingdon.gov.uk/service-children



Talking to Children about Conflict and World News

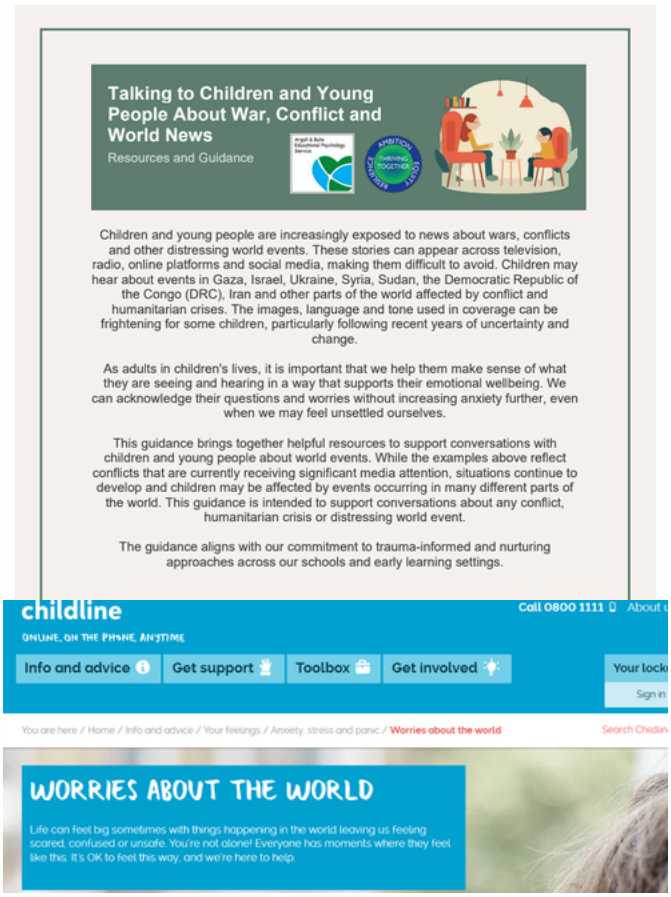
With children being increasingly exposed to news about wars and other distressing world events, here is some guidance bringing together useful resources which can help support conversations with children and young people about conflict and world events.

The resources below are in addition to support available through Hillingdon
https://careandsupport.hillingdon.gov.uk/Categories/133

Argyll and Bute Psychology Service have put together an extensive collection of resources and key principles (seen on the next page) for supporting children, which can be found through this link.

https://sites.google.com/ab.glow.scot/argyllandbuteeducationalpsych/resources/online-resources/war-conflict-and-world-news





Key Principles for Supporting Children

1. Create a Safe Space and Start with What Children Know

Children may have encountered news about wars, conflicts and other distressing world events through television, online content, social media, school discussions or peers. Begin by asking open-ended, age-appropriate questions to understand what they have seen and how they feel.

2. Be Honest but Age-Appropriate

Children have the right to know what is happening, but adults should avoid overwhelming detail or graphic explanations. Keep explanations simple for younger children and encourage dialogue with older children and young people.

3. Validate Emotions and Normalise Worry

Children may feel fear, sadness, anger, anxiety or confusion. Acknowledge feelings without dismissing them and reassure them that these emotions are understandable.

4. Limit Exposure to Distressing Media

Rolling news coverage, graphic images and unfiltered social media content can increase anxiety. Support children and young people to take breaks from screens and create times in the day where news is not discussed.

5. Maintain Routines and Emphasise Safety

Routines provide predictability when the world feels unpredictable. Remind children that they are safe and that trusted adults are there to support them.

6. Support Children Who May Have Lived Experience or Family Links

Some children and families may be more directly affected by world events because of personal, cultural, religious or family connections to countries experiencing conflict, or because they have experience of displacement, migration or seeking refuge. It is important to recognise these experiences sensitively and avoid assumptions about how individuals may be feeling or responding.

7. Look After Yourself as an Adult

Children take emotional cues from trusted adults. Managing your own feelings and accessing support helps you provide calm, consistent reassurance for children and young people.



Little Troopers are inviting children aged 8+, along with their families and friends, organisations to take on an unforgettable challenge together and climb the highest mountain in Wales while supporting Little Troopers.

Please complete this short expression of interest form to let them know you'd like to hear more.

This is an expression of interest only and does not commit you to taking part or secure your place.

They'll be in touch with more information about the challenge, what's involved and how to officially register and secure your place in due course.

Snowdon Summit for Little Troopers 2027 – Expression of interest Survey

SCISS

Service Children in State Schools

Voice of Schools supporting Service Children

SCISS NEAC Webinar

Pupil Wellbeing and SEND



Join us for the next SCISS NEAC webinar, where we will explore practical approaches to supporting pupil wellbeing and SEND in Service children.

The session will cover:

- The unique challenges and strengths of Service children
- Supporting mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Practical strategies for inclusive practice and SEND support
- Sharing ideas and good practice across our community

Thursday 12 November 2026
13:30 – 14:30

All welcome – we look forward to seeing you there!

Book your place here:

SCISS Webinar 12 November 2026 13:30 - 14:30

Advocacy | Influence | Collaboration | Advice

CARERS TRUST

Hillingdon & Ealing

Did you know that there could be two or three young carers in every classroom? Young carers are children and young people who help care for a family member who may be ill, disabled, experiencing mental health difficulties, have SEND, or be affected by substance misuse. Many young carers remain hidden, often balancing significant responsibilities at home alongside their education and social lives.

While not all service children are young carers, some may take on caring responsibilities during periods of parental deployment, injury, illness, recovery from service-related conditions, or when supporting a sibling or other family member. These additional responsibilities can impact attendance, wellbeing, social opportunities and educational outcomes, making early identification and support particularly important.

Carers Trust Hillingdon and Ealing works closely with schools to help identify and support young carers, ensuring they have access to the help they need to thrive both in and out of school. The charity offers staff training, parent coffee mornings, one-to-one and group support sessions for young carers, transition support, and guidance for schools working towards the Young Carers in Schools Award. Their experienced team understands the challenges young carers face and provides ongoing support to school staff and families.

The charity is keen to develop partnerships with more schools across the borough and would welcome the opportunity to discuss how they can support your pupils and staff, including identifying and supporting young carers within service families.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Amanda Hampton, Schools Outreach Manager at Carers Trust Hillingdon and Ealing.

a.hampton@carerstrusthillingdon.org

Contact Details

You're welcome to contact us with any questions or concerns relating to supporting Service children.

Contact for schools:
Hannah Dent: hdent@hillingdon.gov.uk
Bernard Boyle: bboyle@hillingdon.gov.uk

Parents and families can contact us directly regarding their child's education via this email address.

Contact for parents and families:
Servicechildren@Hillingdon.gov.uk

Useful contacts at RAF Northolt

RAF HIVE Information Officer - provides support in all aspects of the Service Family's relocation, confidential signposting and deployment support and can be contacted at NOR-BSWHIVEIO@mod.gov.uk

Community Development Officer - supports RAF personnel and families by leading programmes and partnerships that meet local needs and enhance wellbeing, including support for children, young people and can be contacted at NOR-BSW-PFSpt@mod.gov.uk

Coram Family Lives – offer a free and confidential service to families. Coram Family Lives offers parenting workshops and befriending support. Velma, the Family Support Co-ordinator can be contacted at velma.simeon@coramfamilylives.org.uk

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