

# Service Children's Champions Newsletter

## April 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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April

# Month of the Military Child



The Month of the Military Child is here! It is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the strength and resilience of Service children. Service children can face challenges with parents in The Armed Forces. Yet these children are an amazing asset to families, schools and the local community. The Month of the Military Child helps us remember this and celebrate their achievements.

## How could you celebrate?

1. **Purple Up Day** this year is **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April**. It is an easy way to celebrate by simply encouraging everyone to wear something purple (the colour of Month of the Military Child) to school to show some support for military-connected pupils.
2. Hold an assembly to highlight the positive stories of service life and the many things Service children have experienced. You could include Service children who would like to share their stories.
3. Enter the Month of the Military Child art and poetry competition. The charity Never Such Innocence is running a brilliant competition this year throughout April with the theme 'Winds of Change'. There is also a special bonus category for the best display by a school/group. They have many FREE resources on their website to use during the month and for entering the competition.

<https://www.neversuchinnocence.com/month-of-the-military-child>



# Purple up!

4. "Share Your Story" project. Get children to think about their life experience and how they might share this with the rest of the class. Children could create artwork or write about their experiences.
5. Highlight April as 'Month of the Military Child' on your school's website.
6. Consider hosting a 'person in uniform day'. Invite a serving mother or father to come into school to talk about their role in the services either in class or during an assembly.
7. Brainstorm ideas with your children to create a permanent reminder in the school of your support for Service children.
8. Create a map or time zone wall to identify different locations around the world, with a focus on where Service children have lived before, it's a great conversation starter.

These are just a few of the many ways you could celebrate throughout April. We would be delighted to hear about the events planned in your schools and to see any photos or videos you choose to share with us.

Where possible, we would also welcome the opportunity to attend activities and support events that raise the profile of Service children within the community and celebrate their achievements.



How will you celebrate?



ARMED FORCES  
EDUCATION  
TRUST



## Collective Grants are now open until 8th May!

<https://armedforceseducation.org/collective-grants/>

You can submit an enquiry and then apply anytime up to 8th May 2026 for their June 2026 decision meeting.

Grants will then be awarded for a September 2026 start.

When you enquire, the trust will arrange a Teams meeting to provide guidance before you complete the online application.

Examples of previously funded projects are available to view on their website.

### Guidance for applications:

1. **Clear identification of need** - Schools should show they have assessed the needs of their Service pupils E.g. using tools like the SCiP Thriving Lives toolkit is recommended.
2. **Appropriate use of existing funding** - show how Service Pupil Premium is currently used and how the needs of the cohort cannot be met through existing SPP allocations and the grant is needed.
3. **Sustainability** - They don't offer indefinite or repeat funding, outline how the project or intervention could continue and be embedded beyond the funding period.
4. **Measuring impact** - You should be clear about how you will monitor success and measure outcomes to report back to the trust.

If you are interested in applying and want to discuss your initial ideas, you can contact Hannah or Bernard before enquiring to the trust.

If you have individual Service children in your school who would benefit from additional support, for example with SEND needs exacerbated by their parent's service, then you can complete an Individual Grants enquiry form at any time.

<https://armedforceseducation.org/individual-grants/>



# RAF NORTHOLT

## Children and Young People's Board



Learn more about the support available to Service children in Hillingdon and connect with other schools and the local community by joining the Children and Young People's Board.

Come along to the next CYPB meeting at The Link in Northolt on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 1:30pm.**

These meetings are attended by representatives from The Hive, Family Lives, SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) RAF Northolt, Airplay Youth Workers, South Ruislip Children's Centre, Carers Trust and several schools in Hillingdon.

It would be great for more schools to attend and help shape support for Service pupils and their families in the borough.  
**If you are interested in attending, please email Hannah and Bernard.**

Hannah Dent: [hdent@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:hdent@hillington.gov.uk)

Bernard Boyle: [bboyle@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:bboyle@hillington.gov.uk)



# Contact us



You're welcome to contact us with any questions or concerns relating to Service children, whether you're seeking support for an individual pupil or looking to strengthen provision for your wider cohort. We can help you access appropriate resources, explore funding opportunities, and connect with other schools to share best practice. You may also wish to reach out for CPD or guidance on developing the support you offer, whatever your needs, we're here to help.

## Stronger Schools Officers for Service Children

Hannah Dent: [hdent@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:hdent@hillington.gov.uk)

Bernard Boyle: [bboyle@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:bboyle@hillington.gov.uk)



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