

A brief guide to

FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR RAF CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS

This booklet highlights some of the organisations offering support or resources - including funding - but there are many more.

Some of the key people involved in support for Service children offer their top tips for applying for funding and support from their own, or other, organisations.

For more information, please contact the individual organisations highlighted or visit the RAF Families Federation [education pages](#).



EDUCATION SUPPORT FUND (ESF)

Funding is available to state-funded schools, Trusts or Local Authorities on behalf of schools, to mitigate the effects of exceptional mobility, separation and deployment for Service children.

The latest round opened on 1 June 2020 and closes midday 7 October 2020 for funding in 2021. See RAF FF's Envoy article in [Summer 2020](#) for some hints and tips. Search [gov.uk](#) for 'MOD support fund for schools' to access guidance and examples of successful bids.

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

The Trust runs a number of different funding programmes aimed at supporting Armed Forces families and veterans in their communities.

See [covenantfund.org.uk](#) for all the latest information and open programmes.

THE RAF BENEVOLENT FUND

The RAF Benevolent Fund's External and RAF Station Grants schemes are not open to applications from Schools and other education providers. However they do support individual families and provide considerable funding to children and young people on units and stations around the UK. They fund Airplay youth clubs and Airplay Connect to connect those further away. They have recently extended their free counselling sessions to include children and young people. The Community Development Officer on Station or Unit will have more information and more information is also available from the Fund's website: [rafbf.org.uk](#).

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (LAs)

Good practice exists across LAs and LAs can help to promote collaboration across schools with fewer numbers of Service children.

North Yorkshire - have Service Pupil Champions [servicepupilschampion.co.uk](#) and Matt Blyton, Senior Education Adviser offers his top tips for ESF funding on the next page.

West Yorkshire have produced an excellent guide to Service Pupil Premium [bso.bradford.gov.uk/news/18866-west-yorkshire-pupil-premium-booklet-now-available](#)

Warwickshire offer e-learning modules and support information for professionals to explain the Armed Forces Covenant for those new to supporting Armed Forces families. [warwickshire.gov.uk/support-armed-forces](#)

IN SCOTLAND

The Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES) have produced a bespoke guide for schools in Scotland 'The Funding Guide - Scotland' Visit the website for this and a range of highly useful resources: [forceschildrenseducation.scot](#)

IN WALES

SSCE Cymru have produced a bespoke guide to funding and support for schools in Wales. Visit the website for this and a range of highly useful resources: [sscecymru.co.uk/schoolsandlocalauthorities/funding/default.htm](#)

CONNECT WITH THE RAF AND MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (MOD)

To connect and/or collaborate with your local RAF Station or Unit and discover what support exists for children and young people there or what the priorities for the Station or Unit are, contact the local Community Development Officer.

The [Directorate Children and Young People](#) is part of the MOD and oversees all of defence support for children and young people, including oversight of the ESF (above) - you can contact them on: [dcyp-dcyp-mailbox@mod.gov.uk](#)

THE ARMED FORCES EDUCATION TRUST

Charity working for children and young people whose education has been compromised or at risk as a result of their parents' past or current service. The collective grants scheme makes awards to an education provider (normally a school or education authority) to help provide educational support for service pupils.

armedforceseducation.org

ROYAL CALEDONIAN EDUCATION TRUST

RCET is Scotland's Armed Forces Children's Charity. They seek a world where every Armed Forces child or young person in Scotland has the opportunity to achieve, thrive and reach their full potential in life. They offer financial assistance to families in crisis, provide resources, advice and training for professionals, proactively listen to Armed Forces children and young people and use their experience and knowledge to positively influence public policy. For more information on how they can support you please visit rcet.org.uk



Top Tips on supporting Service children and applying for funding – from the experts:



Matt Blyton , Senior Education Adviser, North Yorkshire County Council - advice for ESF bids

DO give careful thought to sustainability – grants that have longer term impact are likely to be more persuasive than 'one-offs', particularly if they improve systems and procedures.

DO collaborate - collaborative bids carry more weight than single-school ones, since more Service children benefit. This is even more so for schools with small numbers of Armed Forces children on roll.

DON'T submit if you cannot evidence high levels of deployment or exceptional mobility - your bid won't be scrutinised unless one of these conditions is met. As a general rule of thumb, an annual mobility rate of 20% is considered to be quite high (but probably wouldn't be considered 'exceptional').

DON'T forget to consult with others, especially within the military and local authority – bids are stronger when these stakeholders have been involved and provide supporting statements.

Moira Leslie RCET

DO provide staff training to raise awareness of the issues faced by youngsters from RAF families.

DO provide opportunities for these youngsters to share the issues which are important to them and really listen to what they are saying.

DON'T assume that you know what these young people are feeling and that they just "get on with" the challenges they may face because it is part of their lives – you need to hear it from the young people themselves.

DON'T underestimate the emotional impact of being separated from a loved one and the effect that may have on behaviour and motivation in school.

Phil Dent, Director, Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance

- DO** be crystal clear about your theory of change - how your work will lead to the intended impact.
- DO** provide the best quality evidence you can for your assertions.
- DON'T** assume that funders know you and your work well - tell them.
- DON'T** forget to build in evaluation, if allowed - plan to learn from your work and show you are serious about it.

Ed Harris, Senior Education Officer, Directorate Children and Young People

- DO** provide evidence of need of the actual cohort of children rather than a stereotypical account. All children are different, we want to know about what will support children in the applicants' context.
- DO** ask yourself, before submitting 'will this activity contribute to a better understanding of what works in supporting service children to thrive?'

Rachel Dawkins, Grant Manager, Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

- DO** always read all of the guidance provided thoroughly. It contains everything you will need for making a good application. Remember to ask questions if you are unsure of anything.
- DO** ensure you have consulted with Service families as well as other delivery partners such as the local unit or Armed Forces Charity, before making an application. You need to show us that if we provide funding for your project that people will want to access it. Funding is competitive and we want you to provide the strongest case for need and to prove your project is the right one at the right time to meet those needs. e.g. You might want a new outdoor learning facility... but how will that support the Service children specifically?
- DON'T** spend too much time talking about overall statistics and providing general information – we want to know specifically about the children you support directly, what you will do to meet the priority. Why? and how?
- DON'T** leave your application to the last day before closing. You need to allow plenty of time to read and digest both the guidance and application form questions, and to ensure you have drafted/saved your answers offline first in case of any technical issues.

Charmian Hickman - Chief Executive Officer, Armed Forces Education Trust

- DO** get in touch via our website so we can discuss your needs.
- DO** ask if it's to get help for just one or many Service children.
- DO** visit armedforceseducation.org to find out more about us and how we can help.
- DON'T** ask if your requirement is for a capital project.

For more information on these and other organisations (including the SciP Alliance) and our separate infographic on Service Pupil Premium (SPP) visit our website: raf-ff.org.uk