



A · D · E · S  
Association of Directors of Education in Scotland

# Guidance for Armed Forces Families

Let your school know that  
you are an Armed Forces family  
(Regular, Reserve, Ex-Service or Veteran)

**Help your child get the very best  
support from their Scottish school**

The Armed Forces Covenant aims to remove any disadvantage to Armed Forces children brought about by their parents' service. There is a commitment to support your child's learning journey through education. All local authorities in Scotland have a responsibility to the Armed Forces Covenant.

# KEY REASONS

## to let your school know that you are an Armed Forces family


### Why is this important?

- ◆ Armed Forces children often experience many changes in their lives
- ◆ When schools know, they can offer support as and when needed, with mobility; deployment; changing schools; making new friends; leaving friends; interrupted learning; levels of anxiety and more.

### When can you tell the school?

- ◆ Anytime, during an initial visit, enrolment, registration, at the beginning of a new school year, at any transition or change, or as soon as you are able
- ◆ **It is your choice** to give this information, but in doing so it can help the school support your child.

### How do you do this?

- ◆ In some schools there may be a form that you can 
- ◆ As part of the registration package at a new school
- ◆ At the beginning of the new school year
- ◆ Make an appointment with the headteacher, if you wish.

## This information will help schools and local authorities:

- ◆ **Understand** how schools can best support your child and work with you in partnership to build relationships, gain a picture of your child's experiences, raise awareness, provide necessary support and early intervention, and signpost your family to activities and groups;
- ◆ **Improve** the local authority support to the school with resources that might help their staff to better engage with Armed Forces families;
- ◆ **Add** to a Scotland-wide picture and inform decisions that help to support Armed Forces families. All of these help **your child** on their learning journey.

*You can help your child by helping their school.  
Let them know you are an Armed Forces family.*



## All Scottish schools and early learning and childcare settings are committed to **Getting it Right for Every Child**

- ◆ Your child's life experiences are unique, often exciting, sometimes challenging, full of change and transitions
- ◆ Support with transitions, even for a little while, can help a child cope with new experiences.

## Scottish schools that know you are an **Armed Forces family**

- ◆ Can learn from other schools across Scotland about activities, programmes and good practice
- ◆ Can help staff learn more about transitions for Armed Forces children and their families
- ◆ Have central staff who can help with resource material and ideas.

## What teachers will do for you:

- ◆ Talk with you to understand your child and their learning experiences. Get to know your child
- ◆ Be ready to support you and your child if they know of any move, deployment or service duty
- ◆ In partnership with you, decide what support can be given to your child, when and for how long
- ◆ Support your child in moving forward on their learning journey.

*You know your child best.  
Help us to support your child on their learning journey.*



**FORCES CHILDREN'S  
EDUCATION** 

Royal Caledonian  
**Education Trust**  
Established 1815

*Scotland's Armed Forces  
Children's Charity*

**[www.forceschildrenseducation.scot](http://www.forceschildrenseducation.scot)**