

Armed Forces Children and Young People in Scottish Schools – Funding Guidance

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Introduction

Significant amounts of work have been undertaken in schools and local authorities across Scotland *‘to ensure that Armed Forces Children are supported so they can optimise their experience of being part of an Armed Forces family and are not disadvantaged in education and learning’*.

This Funding Guide is being published during COVID-19 lockdown, in a period of great uncertainty that allows limited scope to make many clear plans. Currently, you are all fully engaged in addressing the needs of your pupils, staff, and families (including your own). There are tasks at hand that clearly take priority. While this funding guide is a positive development, I recognise that it may not currently sit high on your priority list. It is, however, important that you are aware of the range of funding that is available, to consider how this might support you and your school and/or local authority in continuing to support Armed Forces Children and their families.

Funding panels will recognise the incredibly challenging and unprecedented issues that COVID-19 will continue to have on schools and local authorities in the coming months.

Sometimes, schools and local authorities need to access additional funds to support Armed Forces children in the most effective way. The ADES National Transitions Officer recognises that it is not always easy to identify which funds are available, what grants are most relevant to a specific project, and the best way to approach completion of an application form.

A partnership group worked collaboratively to produce this document to provide schools and local authorities in Scotland with a guide on the funding streams that are available in 2020/21, along with advice on completing the application forms. This advice comes from members of the funding panels, as well as schools and local authorities that have been successful in applying for the grants.

Before applying for grant funding, schools and local authorities are encouraged to contact nationaltransitionsofficerades@gmail.com to discuss their project/proposal.

NOTE: It is also important to check eligibility by reading the full guidance documents from the original source, to ensure that time is not wasted submitting an application that is not appropriate for a funding stream.

All information accurate as of publication date (July'20). This document will be updated yearly.

Contents

MOD Directorate Children & Young People (DCYP) – Education Support Fund (ESF)

Purpose	3
Eligibility.....	3
Link	4
Advice (by section)	4
Examples of previous success in Scotland	7
Timeline	8
Contact Details	8

Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust (AFCFT)

Forces for Change programme.....	9
Examples of previous success in Scotland	9
Loneliness programme	10
Positive Pathways programme	10
Timeline	10
Contact Details	11
Community Engagement Task Force (CETF) details	11

Armed Forces Education Trust (AFET) – Collective and Collaborative grants

Purpose	12
Eligibility	12
Link	13
Advice for Collective grants (by section)	13
Advice for Collaborative grants	15
Examples of previous success	16
Timeline	16
Contact details	16

Other Funding

The Royal Caledonian Education Trust (RCET)	17
PoppyScotland	19
Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT)	20
The Soldiers' Charity	21
Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund (RAFBF)	21
SSAFA – Scotland	22

Ministry of Defence (MOD) Directorate Children & Young People (DCYP), Education Support Fund (ESF)

Purpose

The ESF is available to schools and local authorities that can show clear evidence of how **exceptional mobility and/or deployment** is affecting either schools and/or its pupils.

Aim of Education Support Fund (ESF):

- To provide support for schools directly affected by exceptional **mobility** (including basing/rebasing activity) and/or **deployment** (parents away on operational tours, long exercises, training courses etc),
- To meet staffing and training needs due to unforeseen dips/increases in Armed Forces children numbers,
- To provide community support to help build relationships between schools, local authorities, and Armed Forces families,
- To provide educational resources linked to Armed Forces children intake,
- To provide funding for refurbishment of existing areas within the school (no capital works).

'Cluster bids' and are strongly encouraged.

£3m is available for schools and local authorities across the UK to apply for funding from the 2021 ESF. Successful applications will show clear evidence of significant **mobility and/or deployment**. This means schools needs to show how, for example, a sudden increase in Armed Forces children numbers has created a significant resource burden – lack of funding, staff shortages etc, and has now placed pressure on the school and all pupils, including those from Armed Forces families.

Bids for the 2021 ESF, which has £3 million to award in total across the whole of the United Kingdom, are encouraged and in-year bids are also welcome. In-year bids must be supported by strong evidence of extraordinary circumstances. Any amounts from the 2021 ESF not allocated prior to the end of the financial year will be lost to internal Defence savings.

2021 bids should be, where possible, for new/different projects to ensure that audits of previous grants can remain separate and transparent, especially where an extension to spend previous funding has been agreed. If you have any concerns with regards to what projects would be suitable and what evidence to provide, please contact Carolyn MacLeod, National Transition Officer for Scotland - nationaltransitionofficerades@gmail.com in the first instance.

MOD DCYP – ESF- 5th May 2020

Eligibility

All maintained schools and local authorities (in support of these schools) based in the **UK** that have Armed Forces children on roll.

Schools MUST be subject to exceptional **mobility** of Armed Forces children and/or have Armed Forces children whose parents are subject to **deployments** and the application must contain clear evidence of the impact.

Definitions:

- **Mobility** – the whole family moving from one location to another resulting in a change of school for the child.
- **Deployment** – Service person being away from home, either on an operation (not exclusive to conflict zones) or a long-term training exercise.

Link

www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-support-fund-for-schools-with-service-children-grant-application-pack

Advice (by section)

GENERAL

- Read the [MOD ESF: instructions and guidance](#) document fully **before** and **after** writing your application to ensure you are focusing on relevant content
- See the [successful application samples](#) provided by DCYP for guidance on the type and level of detail that they expect to see in an application
- **Use the [scoring criteria sheet](#)** to guide what content to include in your application
- **Sustainability/creating a legacy and achieving value for money** will be key focuses of the panels when scoring the applications
- Talk about positive **direct** and **indirect** impacts
- Bids for the ESF can be for a range of projects, schemes and initiatives and must articulate:
 - How the effects of **mobility** and/or **deployment** will be addressed
 - Engagement with Armed Forces and civilian communities
 - Planned outcomes
 - Value for money
 - Sustainability.
- **Approach other schools** to discuss plans for your application – to seek advice and explore opportunities for cluster bids and examples of good practice
- Remember that funding for Armed Forces children should be **in addition to what their civilian peers benefit from** and not in lieu of it. Avoid applying to fund work that the local authority should be providing.

SECTION 1 – DETAILS OF APPLICANT

- **School/local authority details and contact information**
- Applicants are entitled to make **one individual bid each** and can also be included in a **joint cluster bid** with other schools; providing it is for a different initiative. If submitting a cluster bid – **all** schools involved should be included here.

School and Armed Forces children data

- This is an important opportunity to demonstrate how the **numbers of Armed Forces children fluctuates** in your school/local authority – demonstrating mobility
- This is also an opportunity to show the **percentage of Armed Forces children** in your school/local authority.

Previous funding success

- It is important that this information is **transparent and accurate** – it provides the funding panel with detail helping them to make a well-informed judgment on the needs and experience of your school/local authority.

SECTION 2 – DETAILS OF THE BID

Bid summary

- This is the **most important part** of the bid – with only approximately 100 words
- Remember it is an **executive summary** – focus on key outcomes.

Financial information

- This is a good opportunity to provide a clear **breakdown of the costs** which will help the panels clearly understand what is included in the proposal
- Separate elements of the bid and cost them individually to enable the panels to be able to consider and easily identify **partial payments**.

Armed Forces Sponsor

- This should be a member of the **Armed Forces Community** with whom your school/local authority has regular contact
- They can provide **context on the Armed Forces community** in your location, including type of units, expected training and deployments, rebasing affects, and an understanding of challenges faced by Forces families
- Build a **close working relationship** with your Armed Forces Sponsor so they are fully engaged with what you are doing and trying to achieve. Their support throughout your work with Armed Forces children is invaluable
- For name of **your Armed Forces Sponsor**, contact Carolyn MacLeod, NTO, nationaltransitionsofficerades@gmail.com (07931565961).

Effects of mobility and deployment and evidence of need for this funding

Your bid will be stronger if you can **evidence** some or all of the following:

- That you are aware of the potential **challenges that Forces children face** in your school/local authority, along with how to support them – remember each Service child is unique and their experiences are different. See www.forceschildrenseducation.scot for information and resources to help your school understand the experiences of Armed Forces children.
- Demonstrate a **strong understanding** of challenges Forces children may face in education, including, but not limited to, the impact of **mobility** and **deployment** – provide specific **examples** where appropriate

- **Avoid assumptions** about the needs of Forces children – focus on your experience of the children and families you support.
- Include clear **evidence** of the impact of mobility in the school/local authority – such as the number of Forces children joining or leaving mid-year and provide examples of when/how this has had a negative impact on an Armed Forces child
- Include **examples** of when Armed Forces children have experienced difficulties due to their parent/s deployment
- Draw on **experience/examples of successful practice** in your school/s and schools in other areas
- Explain how you have **gained the views** of your Armed Forces children and families
- Demonstrate your school is **proactive** in understanding the best ways to support Armed Forces children and give examples of how this is achieved. This could include details of how you have utilised the resources available from ADES NTO www.forceschildrenseducation.scot ; other sources such as, RCET www.rcet.org.uk ; participation in events: ADES AFWG and Headteachers Forum, MOD ESF Event (SSCSG) May 2019; and conferences.

Partnership working

- Bids from groups of schools, referred to as '**Cluster bids**', are **strongly encouraged** as a joint application
- Cluster bids demonstrate and support **good practice, shared knowledge, and value for money**
- **Detail any collaboration** with other schools in your area aimed at supporting your school's Armed Forces children
- List any **organisations** the school/local authority is already working with, or plans to work with, to understand the needs of Armed Forces children and identify the best way to support them. Organisations could include,
 - Local Armed Forces welfare service
 - Armed Forces charities (Naval Families Federation, Army Families Federation, RAF Families Federation, SSAFA, Poppy Scotland, the Royal Caledonian Education Trust (RCET))
 - Local authority Armed Forces Forum
 - MOD parents' associations
 - Education providers
 - ADES - National Transitions Officer (NTO)

Measuring success

- **Design your monitoring** first then build your activity from this
- Focus on a specific **evidenced need** that you can measure
- Use a mix of measures but ensure **quantitative** measures are included
- Include Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely (**SMART**) **targets** related to either sustaining or mainstreaming the activity
- Remember, you are part of a larger project that seeks to **better understand the needs of Armed Forces children** and what works to support them – monitoring is therefore essential for those who follow you
- **Examples of success** could include,
 - Improved academic results

- Pupil engagement
- Addressing interrupted learning – additional support for learning
- Wellbeing results
- Positive feedback from the Armed Forces community.
- **Examples of how to measure** the impact of the project could include,
 - Monitoring of key academic performance indicators against local authority and Curriculum for Excellence expectations (e.g. literacy, numeracy, attendance, end of key stage)
 - Monitoring records of behaviour
 - Comparing target grades/level results
 - Surveys (Armed Forces Children & Young People, and Forces parents/carers) at the start and the end of the project.

SECTION 3 – SUSTAINABILITY

- Focus on identifying ways of **embedding good practice** in the school/local authority – which will help to demonstrate good value for money
- Explain what **legacy** the project will leave behind
- Ensure a **realistic sustainability plan** is described within the application – including sources of ongoing funding (where necessary), resources and succession planning
- Include an explanation of how **upskilling staff** could have a long-term benefit
- Detail any **other funding streams** the school/local authority has applied for, to continue the work.

Banking Details

- These are requested at the time of application
- This is to ensure that the £3 million available from the 2021 ESF can be allocated before the end of the current financial year to avoid money being lost to Defence savings measures.

Examples of previous success in Scotland

Firrhill Cluster Edinburgh The Firrhill Cluster (5 Primary Schools and 1 High School) in Edinburgh received funding from the 2014 MoD Education Support fund for a Support for Learning Teacher, Outreach Worker, Pupil Support Assistant, Pupil Support Officer, Play Worker, 'The Place to Be' in one of the schools, and additional management time to ensure the needs of the children were being met. The team supported individual families as well as over 200 children on a weekly basis to deliver better outcomes for these families.

Mauricewood Primary School, Midlothian received funding (2017) towards a new library to support reading, culture, and attainment.
 Penicuik primaries with forces children received funding to provide interventions in 3 core areas and develop assessments.

The Highland Council has been fortunate in receiving ESF monies over the years and has taken a full authority approach to enable Armed Forces Families work to be imbedded into core practice.

The main use of the ESF has been to pay for time of PPR Staff with MOD remit and the time of Primary Mental Health Staff.

This has allowed us to put our MOD work high on the agenda allowing partner working and resources to be developed and rolled out.

Supporting and creating the Highland MOD Website, developing information leaflets, newsletters for our Forces Families, building structures to be set up to enable joint working with MOD personnel. Forming and Chairing a Military Liaison Group (Education)

Timeline

For the 2020/21 funding round:

- June (Monday 1st) 2020 – bidding opens
- **October (Wednesday 7th) 2020, 1200hrs** – application deadline
- October 2020 – regional panel convenes
- November 2020 – UK panel convenes
- January 2021 – applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application
- April (Monday 5th) 2021 – payments will be made by this date
- April 2022 – funding should be spent
- April 2022 – successful applicants will be asked to complete an audit.

Contact details

Queries and discussion – Carolyn MacLeod, National Transitions Officer 07931565961

nationaltransitionsofficerades@gmail.com

Completed application forms should be sent to DCYP-MOD-ESF-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk.

Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust (AFCFT)

The **FORCES for CHANGE programme** starts in August 2020 and is a new programme superseding the Local Grants programme which ended earlier this year. This programme has been guided by the findings from a recent public consultation, which showed support for funding that focuses on reducing social isolation and community integration. Organisations will be able to apply for grants of up to £20,000.

Examples of previous AFCFT success in Scotland

Bishopmill Primary School, Elgin

2019-20

Community Connections £20,000 The project will create a nurture space to offer activities to pupils from Armed Forces families to allow them to better settle into their new school. The space will also be used for parents/carers to meet with each other and professionals. Community integration

The Colinton Tunnel Transforming the Colinton Tunnel Together

2019-20

£12,250 Funding will support the creation of a heritage mural on a former railway tunnel on the water of Leith walkway. The mural will celebrate the area's military and civilian heritage and encourage visitors to the area. Community integration

Leuchars Primary School

2018-19

Leuchars PS Outdoor Community Area £16,900 The funding will develop outdoor area in which all members of the community can meet, engage, socialise, and enjoy educational and recreational play in a safe, welcoming, neutral environment.

Moray Council

2017-18

Armed Forces Community Hub – Highland and Moray £6,500 The project will create a microsite with a direct link from the homepage of Moray and Highland Council websites that will provide quick, easy and streamlined access to services and advice provided by the 2 authorities and local charities for members of the Armed Forces Community (AFC).

The **LONELINESS programme** being launched in July will award fixed grants of £60,000 for a two-year period to projects that reduce isolation and loneliness across the Armed Forces community.

The **POSITIVE PATHWAYS programme** will re-open in July 2020, and there will be a second round later in the year. Applicants will be able to apply for a fixed grant of £35,000 for activity-based projects that have a positive impact on mental wellbeing of Veterans. The programme is now open for applications.



Application deadline dates 2020	Outcome informed by ...
25 th AUGUST 2020 (1200 noon)	November 2020
30 th NOVEMBER 2020 (1200 noon)	February 2021

Funding Programmes for the Armed Forces Community 2021/22

Covenant Fund	HMT Treasury Funding
<p>£2.5 M Local Grants</p> <p>£1.5 M Support for Local Authorities (<i>Empowering Delivery of the Covenant</i>)</p> <p>£5.5 M Reducing Social Isolation Programme</p>	<p>£3 M Veterans Should Not Be Forgotten Programme</p> <p>£6.5 M Veterans Programme</p>
<p>Support for veterans + families to reconnect</p> <p>Extra support for those who have suffered most</p>	<p>Support for veterans families for suicide prevention and mental health projects</p> <p>Further rounds of Positive Pathways</p> <p>Encouraging large and smaller charities to work together</p>

Contact details

For more information contact COVENANT-GrantFund-Scotland@mod.gov.uk

MOD Contacts: Community Engagement Task Force (CETF) with corresponding Local Authority Areas, Scotland. CETF Commanders chair regional meetings, lead on engagement, communication, and support.

MOD - Community Engagement Task Force – Tri-Service, Scotland

#	CETF Commander (Tri-Service)	Local Authority Areas
1	Commanding Officer 3 SCOTS	Highlands / Inverness
2	Commanding Officer 6 SCOTS	Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders, North and South Lanarkshire
3	Commanding Officer 7 SCOTS	Western Isles, Perth, and Kinross
4	Commanding Officer 32 Signals	East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire
5	Commanding Officer 39 Engineers	Moray
6	Commanding Officer 71 Engineers	Fife, Orkney
7	Commanding Officer 105 Regiment, Royal Artillery	West Lothian, Shetland
8	Commanding Officer 225 Medical Regiment	Angus, Dundee City
9	Commanding Officer Aberdeen UOTC – University Officer Training Corps	Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire
10	Commanding Officer APC Glasgow – Army Personnel Centre	East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Renfrewshire
11	Commanding Officer Edinburgh Garrison	City of Edinburgh, Midlothian
12	Commanding Officer Glasgow & Strathclyde Universities Officer Training Corps	City of Glasgow
13	Commanding Officer Scottish North Irish Yeomanry (SNIY)	East Lothian, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire
14	Commanding Officer 154 Transport Regiment	Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling
15	Commander HMS NEPTUNE – Royal Navy	Argyll and Bute

Armed Forces Education Trust (AFET)

Collective Grants

Purpose

The Armed Forces Education Trust is a grant giving charity that provides support to current service and former Service children for the purposes of education.

Aims:

- To help fund the education of the children of service men and women who have been disadvantaged by their parents' service
- To ensure children do not miss out because of their parents' service, regardless of age, ability, parental rank or past or current service
- To provide schools with funding for additional resources to support the education of children whose parents serve or have served in our Armed Forces.
-

Two types of funding are available to schools:

Collective grants – are awarded to an education provider (normally a school or education authority) to help provide educational support for Forces children. Such support is likely to include a specific educational intervention as a result of which the improved educational outcomes of the Forces children can be demonstrated.

Collaborative grants – are awarded to state schools for the support of a single child in cases where a child has been disadvantaged by their parents' service and needs extra support e.g. a special needs child needs additional support with transition. The parents will need to complete an application in conjunction with the school and it would be means tested. The Trust is happy to be contacted in the first instance by either the school or the parent.

Eligibility

Collective funding

Applicants must meet **all three** of the following criteria:

1. A registered charity or not for profit organisation
2. The proposal meets the Trust's Aims
3. Demonstrate a direct measurable link between the proposed activities and improved educational outcome of the armed forces children you are aiming to help.

The Trust recognises that schools with small number of Forces children may be equally in need of support as those with large numbers.

Collaborative funding

Schools and parents who identify a need for an **individual child** who has been **disadvantaged** by their parent's service.

Link

www.armedforceseducation.org/collective-grants

Advice for Collective grants (by section)

General

- Read the **guidance notes** fully **before** and **after** writing your application to ensure understand the terminology in application
- Consider the following:
 - The **NEED** for the activities/project
 - What will be the **IMPACT** of the proposed activities?
 - **ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY**
 - Does the requested grant represent **VALUE for money**?
 - **GOVERNANCE**
 - **SUSTAINABILITY** and creating a **LEGACY**.
- **Supporting documents** can be emailed to the Trust
- **Cluster bids** from groups of schools are strongly encouraged
- Remember that funding for Forces Children should be in **addition to what their civilian peers' benefit from** and not in lieu of it. Avoid submitting an application to fund work that the local authority should be providing.

2. YOUR GRANT REQUEST

Finance information (questions 2.1-2.2)

- This is a good opportunity to provide a clear **breakdown of the costs** which will help the panels clearly understand what is included in the proposal, included
- Separate any parts of the bid and cost them individually to enable the panels to easily identify **partial payments**.

Evidence of need for this funding and how it will be address (questions 2.3-2.5)

- Explanation of how you have **identified the need**
- Explain how you have **gained the views** of Forces children and families.

Other grant success (question 2.6)

- It is important that the information provided is both **transparent and accurate** – it provides the trustees with detail helping them to make a well-informed judgment on the needs and experience of your school/local authority.

Alternatives (question 2.7)

- Outline **priorities** and **alternative options** should only partial funding be available.

3. OUTCOMES

Success and impact (questions 3.1-3.2)

- Focus on identifying ways of **embedding good practice** in the school – which will help to demonstrate good value for money
- **Design your monitoring** first then build your activity from this
- Focus on a specific **evidenced need** that you can measure
- Use a mix of measures but ensure **quantitative** is one of them
- Include Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely (**SMART**) **targets** related to mainstreaming and sustaining the activity
- Remember, monitoring is essential for those who follow you. Reporting helps others to **better understand the needs of Forces children** and what works to support them.

- **Examples of success** could include,
 - Improved academic results
 - Pupil engagement
 - Wellbeing results
 - Positive feedback from pupil ambassadors and the Armed Forces community.

- **Examples of how to measure** the impact of the project could include,
 - Monitoring of key academic performance indicators against local Authority and Curriculum for Excellence expectations (e.g. literacy, numeracy, attendance, end of key stage)
 - Monitoring behaviour records
 - Monitoring attendance
 - Comparing target grades/level results
 - Forces children surveys at the start and the end of the project.

4. ORGANISATION CAPACITY

Previous success (questions 4.1-4.2)

- Considered the needs of **other local schools, particularly those with small numbers of service children**, and the possibility of a cluster bid.

Delivery details (questions 4.3-4.4)

- **Explain** how the **objectives** of the project will be met
- Detail how the project will be **managed**
- Bids from groups of schools, referred to as '**Cluster bids**', are **strongly encouraged** as a joint application
- Cluster bids demonstrate and support **good practice, shared knowledge, and value for money**
- **Detail any collaboration** with other schools in your area aimed at supporting your Forces children
- List any **organisations** the school/local authority is already working with, or plans to work with, in order to understand the needs of Forces children and identify the best way to support them

- Detail how your school **engages with the ADES National Transitions Officer** to understanding the best ways to support Forces children. This could include details of how you have utilised the resources available from www.forceschildrenseducations.scot, participated in events such as ADES Armed Forces Working Group meetings or Headteachers Forum.

6. BENEFICIARIES (questions 6.1-6.4)

- For details of the challenges Forces children may face, please see www.foceschildenseducation.scot
- Be aware of the potential **challenges that Armed Forces children face** in your school/Local authority, along with how to support them – be wary of generalisations, remember that each Forces child is unique, and their experiences are different
- Demonstrate a **strong understanding** of challenges Forces children face in education, including, but not limited to, the impact of **mobility** and **deployment** – provide specific **examples** where appropriate
- **Avoid assumptions** about the needs of Forces children – focus on your experience of the children and families you support
- This is an important opportunity to show the **percentage of Forces children** in your school/local authority.
-

7. FINANCIAL DETAILS

Finance from other sources (questions 7.1-7.3)

- Detail any **other funding streams** the school/local authority has applied for
- Explain how a **shortfall** in funding could be overcome.

Sustainability (question 7.4)

- Explain what **legacy** the project will leave behind
- Ensure a **realistic sustainability plan** is described within the application – including sources of ongoing funding (where necessary), resources and succession planning
- Identify ways of **imbedding practice** in school and local authority
- Include an explanation of how **up skilling staff** would have a long-term benefit.

Advice for Collaborative Grants

Before contacting the Trust to discuss a collaborative grant for an individual child please consider whether the child's needs are in any way linked to their parent's service. If not, it is unlikely that the Trust will be able to help.

A grant for an individual child is only likely to be given for a short-term need i.e. to support a transition.

The application for a collaborative grant will be made by the parent(s) with one section being completed by the parents. However, where appropriate it is acknowledged that sometimes this process is best led by the school. These applications are done online via google drive.

Examples of previous success - Scotland

Collective grants:

Kinloss Primary School, Moray Council – a grant has been awarded for a full time Pupil Support Assistant to help support the transition of services children in and out of the school

Raigmore Primary School, Highland Council – a grant has been awarded for a part time class teacher to support services children, in particular to help close gaps in learning due to transitions and support children when parents are deployed.

Timeline

The main application deadline for **Collective grants** is **15th May** for June decisions. However, the Trustees meet termly to discuss collaborative and individual grants and are happy to discuss applications from schools throughout the year (e.g. to tie in with applications to other funding streams, or where a need arises).

- Schools should contact the Trust to **check eligibility for Collective or Collaborative grants** www.armedforceseducation.org/collective-grants
- Parents should contact the Trust to check eligibility for Collaborative grants via <https://armedforceseducation.org/individual-grants/>
- Within three working days – the Trust will contact applicants to discuss their enquiry and **send the application form**, if the applicant is deemed appropriate
- **Submit the application** to admin@armedforceseducation.org and attach any supporting documents
- **Decisions** are made by the Trustees
- Within a week of the Trustees meetings – **applicants are informed** of the outcome of their application
- Within one month of the end of the grant period – complete the **post grant report**.

Contact details

Queries and/or completed application forms should be sent to admin@armedforceseducation.org

Other Funding

The following charities work independently and in collaboration, they also work with other organisations to address the needs of armed forces families, and their children. This information may be of interest to you, to widen your knowledge of the funding arena. Although these programmes may not be directly available for schools and local authorities, they could be useful to your families within the armed forces community.

The Royal Caledonian Education Trust (RCET)

The Royal Caledonian Education Trust (RCET) is Scotland's Armed Forces Children's charity. Founded in 1815, we've put Armed Forces children and their families at the heart of everything we do for over 200 years.

We seek a world where every Armed Forces child in Scotland can reach their full potential, and THRIVE, in education and in life. Whether that's through:

- Providing financial assistance to families in times of crisis.
- Providing resources, advice, and training to education professionals about how best to support Armed Forces children and young people in the classroom.
- Proactively listening to the views and opinions of Armed Forces children and young people.
- Using our experience and knowledge to positively influence public policy and service development.

Purpose

While we don't currently provide funding to organisations we can provide vital funding to pupils and their families which can have a significantly positive affect on their education, chances to develop, and fundamentally on their ability to reach their full potential.

We provide the following Funds which are available to all families with school age children:

- School Children's Fund – which can provide support with School Uniforms and After-School Families for families who meet the criteria. Other items may be considered should they improve the wellbeing of that young person.
- College & Universities Students Fund – which can provide living expenses support for students from Armed Forces families who may otherwise have not been able to attend or would have been at risk of dropping out.
- Crisis Support Fund – which provides emergency financial aid to families in real crisis with things like utilities payments, food vouchers, general children's clothing, bedding, and furniture. Where possible, and subject to funding, we also try to send out Wellbeing Boxes to our young people with fun activities designed to support them with their wellbeing and resilience.
- Family Time Break Fund – which provides residential respite breaks within the UK for families where one or more members has a chronic or life-limiting condition. Families must have at least one child between the ages of 4-25 to be eligible.

- Young Carers Respite Fund – which provides personalised respite support to any Armed Forces Young Carer up to the cost of £250 per young carer.
- Subject to funding we also run Young Carers Peer Respite Activity Breaks such as surf therapy or bush-craft workshops. If you think you have a pupil who would benefit from this, please get in touch for more information.

Eligibility

We can support the children of Armed Forces personnel born in, living in or currently being educated in Scotland. We support children from the age of 4 and above and young people up until the age of 25. We may also be able to support children of Scottish soldiers currently serving out-with Scotland provided they still have an enduring link to the country.

Families will be asked to provide proof of service and may be asked to provide place of birth in order to receive support. Support will be means tested and we may ask for some proof of your income, and expenditure.

If you are unsure if you are eligible then please get in touch with us on 0131 322 7350 or by emailing familysupport@rcet.org.uk.

It is always worth getting in touch with us even if you fall outwith this criteria as exceptional circumstances may be considered.

Families should apply for funding via their local SSAFA branch for all of our funds except our College & University Support. You can find your local SSAFA branch online at: For those leaving S6 and heading off to College & University applications should be made by downloading the Form on our website and sending this completed to familysupport@rcet.org.uk

Link

<https://www.rcet.org.uk/help/family-support/>

Examples of previous success

We've been providing Children & Family Support Funding for over 22 years and have supported thousands of families in that time to help their children to reach their full potential in education, at the hobbies that they love and in their everyday lives.

"I was struggling trying to make ends meet with rent, bills and food. I just didn't know who to turn to. Your support helped us realise there was light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you so much for all your help". Beneficiary, Crisis Support, 2020

"I received a parcel today for my daughter. Thank you so much. She has no use of her limbs and is unable to speak but we helped her hold the pencils to make marks on paper. Her wee face lit up making her dream catcher so thank you ever so much. She especially likes her bar of chocolate, so your gift was very welcome. She sends a big thank you – she's a happy girl!" Beneficiary Family, Wellbeing Box, 2020

“RCET is a very good charity and helps lots of children like me with paying for my dance lessons and school uniforms which I’m thankful for.” Beneficiary, School Children’s Fund, 2019

“Without your support I might not have had the resources to study at University. The funding massively reduced my anxiety and allowed me to focus on my studies. I can now purchase my textbooks without wondering when I can next get food. You’ve given me a proper chance in education.” Beneficiary, College & University Students Fund, 2019

“I managed to get up on the surfboard & ride a wave. I felt like I was flying!” Recipient, Young Carers Peer Activity Break, 2019

Timeline

All of our funds run throughout the year with the exception of the College & Universities Fund where young people are encouraged to get in touch before the end of August to ensure that we can process the first support payment before the start of the academic year.

Contact details

Familysupport@rcet.org.uk

0131 322 7350

www.rcet.org.uk

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Poppy Scotland

Poppyscotland provides tailored support and funding to members of the Armed Forces community through their Grants programme. Their grants are wide-ranging and can cover areas such as home repairs or adaptations, replacement household goods and clothing to name but a few.

For more information call 0131 550 1557 or email GetHelp@poppyscotland.org.uk. <https://www.poppyscotland.org.uk/get-help/>

Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT)

The RNBT assists those who are serving or have served as Warrant Officers and below in the Royal Navy or Royal Marines, and their dependants, who find themselves in need or distress. The collective term for the RNBT's beneficiaries is The RNBT Family.

Eligible Beneficiaries. (Children)

A child of a living or deceased Primary Beneficiary (including a legally adopted child and a child for whom the Primary Beneficiary is not the natural parent but who is normally domiciled with and dependent on the Primary Beneficiary) provided that the child is:

- i. under the age of 18 or,
- ii. over the age of 18 but undergoing further education or training which follows secondary education without a significant break such as a gap year or,
- iii. over the age of 18 but mentally or physically handicapped to such an extent as to be unable to live independently, even if after having been independent for a period and subsequent to a life changing event.

Education Needs: (Children)

Applications for grants towards private day or boarding school fees should be referred to the Naval Children's Charity, <https://www.navalchildrenscharity.org.uk/> in the first instance. Grants may only be made from the Trust's resources in circumstances of urgency or hardship.

Grants may be made towards the cost of further education beyond normal school leaving age, normally up to first degree level only.

Grants may be made towards the purchase of special books, instruments, or other extraordinary educational aids to meet the particular needs of a child who is severely physically or mentally handicapped.

Other areas we can consider are for beneficiaries to be trained to obtain employment. In this we always need to see evidence that any and all statutory funding has been applied for and either obtained or declined before an application can be considered. These can be Enhanced Learning Credits, Resettlement Grants and Standard Learning Credits for Serving personnel and those who have transitioned out of the Service. We normally request evidence of job offers or opportunities at the time of application.

www.rnbt.org.uk

The Soldiers' Charity

The national charity of the British Army, providing a lifetime of support to soldiers, veterans/ex-Service personnel, and their immediate families when they are in need.

Grants to Charities and Organisations – is a well-established and substantial grants programme normally funds up to around 100 charities (within a given year) which deliver support on behalf of the Army and its national charity. Details are at this link – <https://soldierscharity.org/need-our-help/charity-grants/>

Grants to Individuals: We provide grants for around 4,500 individuals each year, dealing with half of all cases presented to the Regimental and Corps charities. All cases are considered on their merits, based on a clearly identified individual case of need that cannot be met by other sources. We would expect that all statutory funding sources had been exhausted prior to an application being submitted. Generally, cases will initially be submitted to the appropriate Regimental and Corps charity. We provide support through our partnership with these charities. Details are at this link – <https://soldierscharity.org/need-our-help/individual-grants/>

www.soldierscharity.org

Scotland@soldierscharity.org

0131 310 5132

Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund (RAFBF)

The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund is the leading welfare charity supporting current and former members of the RAF, their partners, families, and dependent children, providing practical, emotional, and financial support, whenever they need it.

The Fund's Individual Grants programme can provide financial support to meet the welfare needs of dependent children of serving and ex-serving members of the Royal Air Force. In addition, the Fund has a Listening and Counselling Service that provides family counselling and counselling services for young people over the age of 10. To access these services individuals should call 0300 102 1919.

The RAF Benevolent Fund also runs an External Grants programme that supports the costs of activities and services that are targeted at the armed forces community that can demonstrate that they deliver at least one of their nine Welfare Outcomes.

1. Increased financial means
2. Increased mobility
3. Increased ability to live at home safely for longer
4. Improved home environment
5. Improved employment prospects

6. Increased engagement in vocational activities
7. Improved relationships with others
8. Reduced social isolation or loneliness
9. Improved mental and physical wellbeing.

These Welfare Outcomes demonstrate the changes required to deliver the impact they hope will have **to enable all within the RAF Family to live with dignity, purpose, and peace of mind.**

www.rafbf.org

SSAFA – the Armed Forces charity

SSAFA – the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, is a UK charity that provides lifelong support to serving men and women and veterans from the British Armed Forces and their families or dependents. <https://www.ssafa.org.uk/>

This Funding Guide is available on www.forceschildreducation.scot as a PDF for download and copy. Please provide comments and feedback to info@forceschildreducation.org.uk

