

**Directors of Education**  
**cc. Armed Forces Families Lead**  
**Officers (AFFLO)**



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Dear Director,

**Armed Forces Families – Security, Sharing Information & Safeguarding**

The political, security and defense landscape across the UK and internationally has changed in recent years and continues to change. The focus of the recently published [Strategic Defence Review \(June 2025\)](#), *Making Britain Safer: secure at home, strong abroad*, makes this very point.

In response to concerns about security, both Operational and Personal, for serving personnel and their families, I have taken action to remove a resource from the Forces Children's Education website. The resource was a Notification of Deployment form. The action I have taken is in response to some current concerns raised by military and people supporting families.

As a result of our research, we have discovered from military families that operational deployments, in particular, can adversely affect a child's learning, and their wellbeing. (*Deployment* can mean many things such as being sent to a combat zone for six or more months, up to six months submerged in a submarine, or extended training programmes including long periods of absence where communication with family proves to be problematic due to operational circumstances).

Clearly, we would want to provide as much support as we can to our armed forces families during these periods. There is value in sharing a certain amount of information, but it must be done in a safe and secure manner. It is also essential to inform families, and there needs to be some message shared that says, **'schools, settings and educational authorities don't want any details of your service or what you are doing on operational deployments. They want you to know that they are there to support you and your family. Any concerns about your child's education and wellbeing that may arise from your deployment, or operational deployment, long training periods, or absence overseas, do not hesitate to contact the head teacher to discuss those concerns. Let the school know how they can best support your child.'**

The following is a statement from MOD Security, with which I am sure we can agree:  
'Security is a shared responsibility. Every one of us must play a part in protecting Defence's people, information, and capabilities.'

Kind regards,  
Carolyn

**Carolyn MacLeod**  
**National Education and Transitions Officer**