

THE SERVICE PUPILS' SUPPORT PROGRAMME

PART OF THE ARMED FORCES FAMILIES FUND

FAQs



 **THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST**
Funded by HM Government



Ministry
of Defence

Armed Forces Families Fund
Service Pupil Support Programme 2024

FAQs

What is the Service Pupil Support Programme?

The Service Pupil Support programme is part of the Armed Forces Families Fund and is a programme designed to improve the educational pathway of Service children.

This funding will enable Service children to reach their full life potential. This Fund is primarily focused on schools and local authorities across the UK.

We will expect you to work in clusters and be collaborative.

What is the aim of this programme?

This programme is designed to help support Service children along their educational pathway by:

- closing the gap in attainment between Service and non-Service pupils, using data-led evidence
- addressing the needs of Service pupils with additional needs, through early identification and intervention, using a collaborative and coordinated approach
- Identifying and addressing the needs of small cohorts of Service pupils within educational settings.

Your project should address one (or more) of these themes.

Exceptionally, outside of these themes, we will support sudden and significant increases in a school's military cohort. You'll need to emphasise the needs of this cohort in your application.

Does my project need to address all three themes?

No. Your project only needs to address one of the themes. You can, however, address more than one theme within your project if that is appropriate to the challenges that you are seeking to address.

Who will benefit under this programme?

This programme will address the needs of children aged 4-18 in full-time statutory education, who are from currently serving Armed Forces families. This includes pupils whose parents are on full commitment as part of the full-time Reserve Service.

How can I apply to this programme?

There are two ways in which you can apply for a grant under this programme.

Groups or Clusters: You can apply as part of a group or a cluster across three or more

schools. A single school, academy trust or local authority will need to be the lead applicant, and would be responsible for managing the project, if you were awarded a grant. We are keen to encourage schools to work together to offer better support to Service pupils and anticipate that most of the projects we fund will be for cluster-based projects.

Single schools: We expect that most applications will come through clusters. However, if you are a school with a large cohort of Service pupils, or you are facing a significant challenge, such as a large upcoming entry of Service children into your school, you can apply to us directly through this programme. More information can be found in our programme guidance.

What organisations are eligible to apply?

We can accept applications from:

- maintained schools
- academy schools
- free schools
- sixth form colleges
- further education colleges
- local authorities
- multi-academy trusts.

There is more information available within the programme guidance.

We are a specialist education organisation, are we eligible to apply?

Specialist educational organisations can be involved in a bid; however, the lead applicant will need to be one of the organisations listed above.

We are an independent school, with a small cohort of Service pupils, can we apply for funding under this programme?

No. We cannot fund independent schools under this programme. There is more information in our programme guidance.

We are a state boarding school with a small cohort of Service pupils, can we apply?

If you are a state, rather than an independent boarding school, you are able to apply as long as you meet all of our other eligibility criteria.

Can we work with external consultants or other organisations to help deliver our project?

You can work with external organisations to help you deliver your project. If you would like to work with other organisations, then you need to tell us about this within your application. If you plan for any of the funding you are requesting to go to another organisation to help you deliver your project, then you will need to put a partnership agreement in place. There is more information in the 'working with others' section of our guidance.

Can funding be used to have ADHD and ASD assessments by private healthcare companies?

No. This would duplicate NHS statutory provision.

Can MOD schools apply?

No. MOD schools are not eligible to apply under this programme.