

**Directorate Children & Young People (DCYP)
Q & A**

Q1. What is the Directorate Children and Young People and what is it responsible for?

A1. The Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP) is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for providing professional direction, support and advice in order to ensure that Service children and young people are provided with every opportunity to achieve the best possible outcomes and fulfill their potential. The Directorate includes:

Service Children's Education (SCE) who provide a high class educational service to meet the needs of dependant Service children including eligible children of MOD UK based civilians and sponsored organisations serving overseas.

Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) who provide information, advice and support to Service families and eligible MOD civilians on all aspects of the education of their children in the UK and overseas.

DCYP also manages the **MOD Education Support Fund** (formerly the MOD Support Fund for State Schools with Service Children) which was launched in 2011 to assist education establishments throughout the UK to mitigate the effects of exceptional mobility and/or deployment of their Service communities; Regular Armed Forces and Reserve Forces. Originally £3 million per year, in 2014 the fund was increased to £6 million per year and extended for a further period until 2017.

DCYP received over 200 applications during the last bidding round which totaled £8.8 million and were able to issue grants to 160 applicants. Grants from the 2013 round went to a wide variety of different types of application which included funding towards the development of a **Pupil Information Profile** that can be used when children are moving schools to help inform the receiving school of the learning style of the pupil, their achievements and other relevant information that would enable a smoother transition.

Q2. What is the Education of Service Children Change Programme and what does it mean for Service families?

A2. Sitting within DCYP the Education of Service Children Change Programme (ESCCP) is a tri Service programme to bring together a number of projects to mitigate the impact on Service children of various changes in Defence and other government policy, including drawdown from Germany and rebasing.

What this means for Service families will vary depending on individual circumstances, but may include:

- Access to advice and guidance on the school transfer process for children affected by Germany drawdown and major unit moves within the UK.
- Access to developments to provide high quality education provision for Service children in UK schools.
- Access to developments to provide high quality education provision for Service children in remaining SCE schools overseas.

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Q3. Where will I find updates on developments relating to the ESCCP?

A3. The ESCCP Communications Plan is currently evolving, so please lookout for forthcoming articles in single Service magazines (e.g. Soldier); on Service websites (e.g. ArmyNet); DCYP newsletters and bulletins and the single Service Families Federations magazines and websites. The team are also developing a social media presence via Facebook and Twitter – more details to follow. In the interim more information will be available on:

www.gov.uk/directorate-children-and-young-people.

Or by contacting the team on DCYP-ESCCP@mod.uk

Q4. How does the ESCCP fit into the work of the New Employment Model (NEM) and the Army Basing Programme (ABP)?

A4. The three initiatives work very closely together - NEM aims to provide Regular Service personnel with increased choices that reduce the impact of Service life on domestic stability. The ABP supports the principles of NEM to allow greater stability for Service personnel and their families, allowing better integration into local communities, greater potential for spousal employment and continuity in education for Service children. The ESCCP specifically addresses the resulting, current and future, education needs of Service children and young people in the UK and overseas including the effects of rebasing moves.

Q5. The Germany drawdown between 2014-2018 will see the return to the UK of Service families including around 5,000 children; naturally parents will be expecting to enrol their children in local schools. What is being done to ensure there is adequate provision for the education of those children?

A5. As units will relocate to a variety of locations throughout the UK DCYP is engaging with the Department for Education, Devolved Administrations and those Local Authorities that will experience an increase in numbers of children needing school places. This will help to raise awareness and ensure that they can plan in advance.

DCYP is also working closely with the Army Basing Team and others within the MoD, to ensure a joined up approach to rebasing and drawdown. There is also the opportunity for schools to bid for grants against the MoD's Education Support Fund to mitigate the impact of fluctuating numbers brought about by rebasing.

Q6. In September 2013, the Local Government Association (LGA) released data which highlighted areas in the UK where the local authorities are concerned about lack of spaces in schools. Are Service families due to move to areas in the UK where there are shortages of school places?

A6. DCYP, through the ESCCP, is working with the Department for Education, Devolved Administrations and Local Authorities to ensure the needs of the Service community are included in the big picture. There is pressure on school places in a number of areas but the ABT, working with DIO is maintaining an oversight and working to ensure the capacity is there for Service children.

Q7. How many children are taught in SCE schools and how many of these are in Germany?

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A7. At the start of the summer term 2013 there were 7,738 pupils in SCE schools (not including Ark, Oxford and Windsor schools which have now closed) of which 5,505 were in British Forces Germany.

Q8. How will you manage the rundown of Service Children's Education (SCE) schools?

A8. SCE has developed a plan in parallel with the Garrison and unit rebasing programme to ensure Primary and Secondary schooling is available until the end of drawdown.

Units will predominantly move in the summer holiday period to minimise the disruption to children's education; parents need to think carefully about children starting courses of work leading to public examinations.

SCE have advanced the closure dates for both Lister School Herford and Montgomery School Hohne from Dec 15 to Jul 15 to the end of the academic year, and taken the decision to cease termly boarding at King's School Gütersloh in Jul 15.

Q9. How will standards of education be maintained until the last unit withdraws from Germany?

A9. One of the projects within the Education of Service Children Change Programme, (ESCCP), is looking at the management of the closure of SCE Schools in Germany whilst ensuring the high standards of education in those schools continues.

The current 700 strong teacher workforce within SCE will be reduced by around two thirds and the number of schools will be reduced from 31 to 12. SCE are committed to continuing to provide their high standard of education throughout this transition.

With regards to SCE staff the focus will be on staff retention, recruiting staff where necessary and when possible, moving high quality teachers to where they are needed, in order to maintain those high standards of education.

Another of the projects within the ESCCP is considering what the future operating model for SCE may look like to best meet the needs of Service children.

Q10. What arrangements are in place for those children affected by rebasing and at Key stages of their education (GCSE or 'A' levels)?

A10. All parents should discuss immediate concerns with the Head Teacher and teaching staff of their child's school in the first instance; CEAS are also available to provide advice, if required.

Individuals can also contact their Unit Welfare Officer, find relevant information held by their local HIVE and search the internet.

Quarterly updates are issued by the Army Basing Team, RF Bde HQs compile regular updates from a regional perspective and link more closely with the Local Authority and the DCYP will issue updates on an ad hoc basis.

Q11. How will local authorities cope with the numbers of children for whom English is not their first language?

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A11. Good practice already exists within the education sector to help support those children for whom English is not their first language. The Education Support Fund will provide the opportunity for schools and local authorities to bid for grants to help learn from existing good practice.

Q12. How do Service families apply for a school place for child/en especially if the new quarter has not been allocated?

A12. The applications processes for school places anywhere in the UK work best when a family moving to a new area knows their new address. If this is not possible, units and families should seek advice from receiving schools and local authorities about how to proceed. If further help is required, please contact CEAS.

The first port of call for information about applying for school places is always the local authority within which the incoming family will live, even if the age of the child concerned or the timing of the move may mean that an application for a school place must be made direct to a school or schools. As part of the re-basing programme, the ABT is working closely with units and local authorities to ensure that moving families are provided with all the information they need to apply for school places in time for their moves to their new locations. In addition, the ABT has established the Army Basing Education Planning Group, together with DCYP, to ensure that the issues of planning sufficient school places, the timely supply of accurate and adequate information to moving families about securing educational provision and the provision of support for those families and units, who need it, are properly managed.

Q13. When can Service families apply for school places in the UK?

A13. Although it is possible for mobile Service families to apply for school places in advance of a move, how far in advance will vary around the UK. The ABT and units, as part of their engagement with receiving local authorities and schools will ensure that timeframes for advance applications for school places will be established, to balance as effectively as possible the needs of incoming Service families with the statutory responsibilities schools and local authorities have to all the communities they serve. Units and families seeking advice and support with this issue should consult CEAS.

Q14. What arrangements will be in place regarding adequate and suitable provision at the new schools for children with Special Educational Needs?

A14. Early identification of additional requirements relating to a child with a SEN is important; families should contact CEAS by calling 01980 618244 or emailing: enquiries@ceas.uk.com to ensure appropriate provision is made for their children at the new school;

Q15. What else is being done to help Service children?

A15. The **Service Pupil Premium** is available to schools in England which have children on their school roll who are Service children. Schools receive funding per Service child but are only able to claim funding if child is marked as a Service child on the school roll in time for the annual January census. Parents are therefore urged to let their head teachers know before January of their child's status. This information is only available to the Dept for Education which manages the fund. More information can be found using this link to the [DfE](#) website.

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The MOD £3M Fund exists to assist schools which have Service children among their pupil population. The fund is designed to help schools mitigate the exceptional mobility or deployment of their Armed Forces communities. In the coming round of the Fund applications from those areas where there is a known impact due to the geographical change in Armed Forces footprint will be particularly welcomed. More information can be found on the DCYP website at GOV.UK via this [link](#)