

## Education Support Fund (ESF)

### Case Studies

#### **England**

Montgomery Infant School and Nursery, Colchester, received funding from the 2013 MoD Education Support Fund for e-book subscriptions, reading schemes, books and literacy resources to support Service pupils, their families and the whole school community.

“Our commitment to MoD families is an important part of our school ethos and we believe the inclusion of all MoD pupils in our school helps to support a positive Garrison. We are very grateful for the 2013 funding”.

DCYP visited the school in June 2014 and met with the Head Teacher, Sally Leung. They and were impressed with the literacy resources purchased for each class including; recordable pegs; sound buttons and Easi Ears (teachers can use their own audio content with the headphones for children to listen independently or as a group). The children love using these innovative resources which makes speaking and listening fun.

Parents and children have engaged with the new range of reading material; “Children moving to us, often mid-year, arrived having started on a specific reading scheme which differed to ours. By purchasing books through the bid, we were able to expand our reading schemes to encompass those we had not previously used. This proved very beneficial and has helped increase our children’s results in the Phonics Screening.”

*Quotes from Pauline Stevens, Bursar Montgomery Infant School and Nursery*



## Wales

Mount Street Junior School in Brecon has a high transient population of pupils with 35% of pupils at the school being Service children. They were successful in gaining funding from the ESF in 2013 towards a Literacy & Numeracy Support Assistant and an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant.

The assistants have worked with pupils to identify gaps in learning, giving access to intervention programmes far earlier. Parental support has led to successful transition for pupils joining and leaving the school and playground support has encouraged new friendships.

From a low baseline indicator, 60% of pupils now indicate they are confident about moving schools, making new friends and meeting new challenges and a total of 77 pupils accessed the support provided by the assistants, 31% of which were either entering or leaving the school.

Barbara Adams, Head Teacher said "The application process has allowed us to focus on and identify the particular needs of Service pupils relating to our school. This has facilitated smoother transition and greater pupil progress. The delivery of a Wellbeing survey for pupils has enabled us to obtain quantifiable information as a baseline to measure improvement in the future."



## Scotland

Forres Associated School Group (ASG) submitted a joint application for 1 secondary school and 8 primary schools. Funding was awarded toward the creation of a Nurture Room at Kinloss Primary School and for staffing of the Fusion's Team who support children across the ASG.

Pupils have benefited from a smoother transition when arriving or moving due to the dedicated team of workers. Staff use the strategies employed by the team in the wider context of their classroom practice to ensure a consistent and supportive approach is delivered to all pupils.

The nurture room has proven a great success in providing support to pupils and is a fantastic room. Parents have completed feedback questionnaires for the school which re-iterate how the Fusions Team and nurture room have been of benefit to their child.

ASG were asked what has been good about the fund:

"We have appreciated the interest from the MOD in what we are doing and how this is providing in some small way a better and hopefully positive transition experience for our families. Communication through the network of MOD co-ordinators and links with other schools and Local Authorities has allowed sharing of process, systems and experiences to improve what we can do in our local setting."

DCYP visited Kinloss Primary in June 2014 where they met with Carol Stuart, Head Teacher at Forres Academy and Robert Hair, Head Teacher at Kinloss Primary School and saw first hand what a great asset the nurture rooms is.

