Support for Service Families at Corsham Primary School

There are more than 100,000 military children across the country. At Corsham Primary School, we offer a wide range of pastoral support to help our service families, whether that's daily, weekly, or termly. We recognise the unique challenges that mobility and parental deployment can bring, and our aim is to provide consistent, needs-led support throughout those times.

Our Service Pupil Premium (SPP) Strategy outlines how we use the additional funding provided for children from Armed Forces families. This funding helps us offer targeted pastoral support, strengthen emotional wellbeing, and ensure continuity during times of mobility or deployment. Our strategy focuses on meeting the specific needs of service pupils through tailored interventions, clubs, resources, and opportunities that promote stability, resilience, and a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

The following resources and opportunities are available:

Communication Packs
Dedicated iPads, as a pair or single, can be used whilst a family member is away from home due to deployment or work commitments. These devices can be used to message, FaceTime and share photos etc.

Huggable Heroes
Huggable Heroes are hand made in Norfolk, using a photo of the child's deployed parent. They edit the photos and then print them into fabric ready to be made into a perfect sized cuddly toy. http://www.huggableheroes.co.uk/

Little Troopers
Little Troopers are a registered charity supporting all children with parents serving in the British Armed Forces, regular or reserve. They provide fundamental resources, initiatives and events to ease and aid repeated separation periods. http://www.littletroopers.net/ (At home resources and At School resources)

Well Being Support including Meet and Greet, ELSA and Sandtray Therapy
Emotional support. ELSA and Sandtray therapy is carried out by specifically trained teaching assistants and provides support within specific areas of difficulty in which a child may be experiencing including social skills, emotions, bereavement, anger management and self-esteem.

Focus Groups and 1:1 interventions
Academic support. TA support is implemented within the classroom for those children who need additional support with their learning.

Up2date information on our school website
Our website includes up-to-date information, resources, and signposting for military families, ensuring parents can easily access support and stay informed about what's available.

Dandelion Creative Club
Run Wednesday afternoons by the team from Lacock Scrapstore at Broadwood. Parents (from both sites) can request free spaces for their child/ren, at least once a term and, at most, once a week, where spaces allow. This has a positive impact through time spent with other children from military backgrounds.

Dandelion Lunchtime Club
A friendly, supportive lunchtime group for children from military families at Broadwood. It offers a calm space to chat, play games, and connect with others who share similar experiences, especially during times of mobility or deployment.

Biannual Little Troopers Gazette
3 x a year children receive the Little Troopers Gazette, a national magazine created especially for military children. It celebrates their stories, achievements, and experiences.

Little Troopers badges
Military children wearing the Little Troopers badge in school is about recognising something real and often invisible: they live a life most of their classmates will never fully understand. The badge helps schools *see* and *support* military children, celebrates their resilience, and creates a sense of belonging.

Remembrance traditions with Corsham Town Council
We take part in local Remembrance events, giving children the opportunity to understand and honour the service and sacrifices of the Armed Forces community.

Celebrate the month of the military child
The month of the military child is celebrated in April each year to celebrate strength and resilience as parents serve in the armed forces.

Texts and Stories about having a parent in the military
We provide age-appropriate books, stories, and resources that help children understand deployment, separation, and the unique aspects of military life.

Dandelion Dog Club – for Key Stage 2 pupils
A wellbeing-focused club where KS2 children can spend time with our 'Veterans with Dogs' dog - Artie. It offers comfort, builds confidence, and supports emotional regulation, particularly helpful during times of change.

Military/Dandelion Display
A dedicated display celebrating our service families, showcasing children's work, photos, and information about military life. It helps create a sense of pride, belonging, and visibility within the school community.

North Hub Lead for Wiltshire
Corsham Primary School serves as the North Hub Lead for Wiltshire, meaning we help coordinate and strengthen support for military families across the region.

Parents and Carers are asked to contact the school office if they would like to access any of these resources and to inform of any deployment they may be experiencing.