

Welcoming Children and Young People from Services Families into your School or Setting

<p>Support children and young people to be 'ready' for school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support children and young people to visit your school or setting ahead of their start date if possible. • Share key information with family in ways that are accessible for them. • Service families often find themselves struggling with the admissions process because they are forced to move house and school outside the standard admissions timetable – take steps to support families through this process.
<p>Support individual needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider any possible barriers to families accessing the support you can offer and take steps to address these. • Assess needs when the child or young person joins your school or setting – develop a support plan if needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whilst there are positives that come with the lifestyle, the high mobility and frequent house and school moves that can come with a military career can be unsettling for some children and young people. Take this into account when planning pastoral support for both the children and young people and their family. ○ Regular moves can make it difficult to settle in school, to make new friends, and to have access to a consistent curriculum. Ascertain what the child or young person has covered recently in the curriculum with the aim of avoiding repetition. • Children and young people can be impacted significantly when their parent is deployed, experiencing anxiety and other strong emotions linked to the separation and uncertainty. Find out when the child or young person's parent is on deployment and consider what additional capacity / support may need to be factored in. • If the child or young person transitions out of your school or setting, consider how you can support them most effectively, ensuring effective communication with the receiving setting.
<p>Create a welcoming, safe and engaging environment!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the child or young person to feel part of the school community and ensure they see themselves represented within the physical environment. • Take steps to support the child or young person to feel safe and happy to engage with their learning. • Use of buddies can help children and young people to settle and become familiar with the environment. • Be aware of any specific triggers for the child or young person and consider how to adapt their environment to avoid these.
<p>Develop safe and trusting relationships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there is one key person that the family can communicate with, build trust and share any worries they have. • Support families to engage fully with school life and with the local community.

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Reflect on transitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider what went well and what needs to improve for future transitions.
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Find out more information with helpful signposting in our Service Families [One Minute Guide](#).