

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Minister for Public Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/MB/LA/5016/14

Lindsay Whittle, AM

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20 November, 2014

Dear Lindsay,

I am writing in response to the question you asked in Plenary, on 12 November regarding support available to help Armed Forces children in schools in Wales.

The Welsh Government's Standing Committee for Service Children in Schools in Wales was established in November 2012. The Committee has met regularly and brings together a range of stakeholders including representatives from the Ministry of Defence, Welfare Officers and educationalists, to consider the issues Service children may face in education. The work of the Standing Committee has been well received and has improved dialogue between schools, military bases and the community.

The Welsh Government has promoted awareness of the Ministry of Defence's Support Fund for State Schools with Service Children, across schools and Local Authorities, working closely with the Standing Committee.

In the 2014-15 funding round, eight Welsh bids were received, seven from schools and one from the WLGA. All eight applications have successfully secured funding totalling approximately £315,000.

The School Admission Code 2013, makes provision for the children of Armed Forces Personnel to be admitted to an infant class (Reception, Year 1 and 2) during school mid-term even if it means the class will breach the infant class size limit. This comes into force for the 2014/14 school year. The child will retain this excepted status for the duration of their time in the Foundation Phase.

I hope this provides you with an understanding of how the Welsh Government are providing support for Armed Forces children in the state educational system in Wales.

Your sincerely,
Leighton A

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