

What do we do?

- We track and monitor all children who are Missing from Education in line with section 436A of the Education Act 1996
- We provide a support service to Host Nation Schools where entitled MOD children and young people are attending if attendance issues are impacting on a child's education.
- We provide subject matter expertise to commands in all overseas spaces regarding Education Welfare, Attendance and Attainment issues.
- We provide subject matter expertise to commands in all overseas spaces regarding Statutory Children's Social Work intervention.
- We provide Project Management of British Forces Social Work – Rest of World, in line with Army Commercial Contract Management.
- We act as Allegations Manager in role of the DADO (Defence Allegations Designated Officer) alongside the SAFE Team Leader where allegations of a person in position of trust against a child or young person has been made.

Key Facts

- The welfare and needs of the child, young person or vulnerable adult are at the forefront of our practice.
- Missing school for just a few days a year can damage pupils chances of gaining good GCSEs.
- All children, regardless of age, ability or special educational needs, are entitled to an appropriate full-time education. However, there are many factors in the life of a child or that of their family that can affect school attendance.

Useful Information

- JSP 834: Safeguarding
- JSP 913: Whole Service Domestic Abuse
- JSP 770: Tri-service Welfare Policy
- JSP 342: Education of service children
- DIN01-134: Elective Home Education
- Children's Act 1989
- Education Act 2002
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

For more information about our services,
Contact: RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk

If you become aware of a vulnerable child, young person or adult, contact British Forces Social Work.



Defence
Children
Services

Education Welfare and Social Work Team





Defence Children Services

The Defence Children Services (DCS) provide 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 fulfil their potential.

DCS seek to ensure that Service children and young people receive their full entitlement to statutory services, support and suffer no disadvantage because of their parent's Service status; this is the underpinning principle of the Armed Forces Covenant.

Our aim is to provide support which is proactive and preventative as being responsive to emerging needs.

Who are we?

We are a specialist team within Defence Children Services (DCS) with a focus on all issues regarding Service children's Education Welfare and provide statutory social work subject matter expertise and contract management to British Forces Social Work Rest of World.

How can we help?

We can support Service Personnel, families and professionals with any questions, concerns or issues regarding a child or young persons attendance.

We build good working relationships in order to improve attendance and attainment for all service children and young people.

We offer advice and guidance around any social work issues, whether it be a concern a vulnerable individual or whether themes and trends have been identified in specific areas.

We support our MOD Schools and Settings with implementing positive attendance and early help processes as well as provide wrap around support to Schools and Settings.



What do we do?

- We provide all DCS Schools and Settings with a named Education Welfare Officer who will support the school with identifying and addressing any issues, trends, or concerns around attendance.
- We replicate where practicably possible the formal Education Welfare Process for children and young people who have been identified as Persistent Absentees (below 90% as outlined by Department of Education)
- We offer informal education welfare advice and guidance to all Service Personnel and entitled MOD civilians.