



# MONTH of the MILITARY CHILD guide for schools in Moray



Connect Support Celebrate



# is MONTH of the MILITARY CHILD

## What is it?

Every April, we celebrate the Month of the Military Child, a time to recognise and appreciate the unique strengths of children and young people from Armed Forces families. Their resilience, adaptability and courage shine through as they navigate the opportunities and challenges that come with military life.

## Why the Dandelion?

The dandelion symbolises military children because it can thrive anywhere, just like them. Its seeds travel far, taking root and blooming wherever they land. This reflects the strength and adaptability shown by children from Armed Forces families.

# What Does Purple Represent?

Purple symbolises the blending of the colours of all service branches. It's a unifying colour that reflects the strength, resilience and shared experiences of Armed Forces families.



# MONTH of the MILITARY CHILD

... is more than a date in the calendar. It's a meaningful opportunity to *recognise* and *better understand* the *unique experiences* of military children.

Support is in place year-round in Moray's schools, but April offers a chance to *deepen awareness*, and *reflect* on how we continue to *include* and *value* children and young people from Armed Forces families across our communities.

When we get it right for these children, we help create the conditions for all children to *thrive*.



Celebrate

Building understanding and meaningful relationships.

Promoting emotional wellbeing and helping pupils manage change

Shine a spotlight on identity, experience and community

More than a moment, building understanding and support all year round.

# An inclusive MONTH FOR EVERY SCHOOL

Month of the Military Child is for every school, whether you have none, some or many children and young people from Armed Forces families.

It's a meaningful opportunity to explore different experiences, build connections and strengthen a sense of belonging across the whole school community.

## Why it matters

- Recognises and values children from Armed Forces families
- Builds understanding of different life journeys and experiences
- Strengthens friendships and helps children understand how to support one another through change
- Opens up positive conversations about belonging, change and community

## Links

UNCRC Articles 12 & 13: Children have the right to share their views and experiences

HGIOS4 QI 3.1 & 2.4: Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion, with a focus on removing barriers and providing personalised support where needed

m Y GIRFEC: Ensuring every child is nurtured, included and respected

CfE: Supports the development of responsible citizens who value diversity, respect others, and understand different perspectives and experiences



Building understanding and meaningful relationships

#### **E STORY SHARING PROJECTS**

Create opportunities for pupils to share their experiences and listen to others.

#### MHOLE-SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Help the whole school learn more and understand what life can be like for Armed Forces families.

#### **P**INCLUDE ARMED FORCES VOICES IN SCHOOL LIFE

Involve children and young people from military families in pupil councils, and ensure their families are represented on parent councils.

#### DANDELION-THEMED CRAFTS OR LESSONS

Use creative activities to start conversations about strength, change and what it means to belong.

#### MORLD MAP ACTIVITY

Mark places military children have lived or where parents have worked, building global awareness and to spark discussions.

#### 👬 INVITE SERVING PARENTS IN

Hear directly from Armed Forces families to build awareness about the various roles in the Armed Forces, their experiences and build connections.

#### NEVER SUCH INNOCENCE'S <u>'MEMORIES'</u> COMPETITION

Encourage reflection and storytelling through art, poetry or writing.

Promoting emotional wellbeing and helping pupils manage change

DANDEI

#### MINDFULNESS SESSIONS

Supp<mark>ort mental health during times</mark> of change by helping children build their own bank of calming strategies they can return to when needed.

#### *include States Automatic Action Active Act*

Create space for children to process thoughts and emotions safely.

#### \* CREAT<mark>E A WELLBEING TOOLKI</mark>T

Involve pupils in building personalised banks of strategies they can use year-round.

#### **DANDELION SONG BY NEVER SUCH INNOCENCE**

Use music as a way to explore strength and shared experience.

#### ACTIVITIES EXPLORING CHANGE

Encourage parents to share their roles and experiences to help others learn more about military life and build connections.



**PURPLE UP! DAY ON FRIDAY 25 APRIL 2025** Invite everyone to wear purple and show visible support across your school.

**WHOLE-SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES OR EVENTS** Bring the school community together to sing, share stories and showcase pupils' talents.

CREATIVE DISPLAYS Share pupils' artwork, writing or poetry throughout your setting.

**Take part in national projects that highlight children's creativity and experiences.** 





# A visible show of support and celebration across Moray





#### WEAR PURPLE

Invite pupils and staff to wear purple or add a splash of it to their outfits to show support.

#### 🧁 HOST A BAKE SALE

Raise money for an Armed Forces charity while bringing the school community together.

#### **> HOLD A CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY**

Use the day to sing together, share creative work and highlight the voices of military children.

#### CREATE THEMED DISPLAYS

Showcase artwork, writing or reflections inspired by military life or the dandelion flower.

#### GET FAMILIES INVOLVED

Invite Forces families to join the day's activities and share in the celebration.



# RESOURCES and COMPETITIONS

Your Dandelion Project Hub

April is a great time to raise awareness of the support available for Armed Forces families, and for schools supporting their children and young people.

<u>Bookmark it</u>, share it and explore what's available. You can also <u>sign up</u> to The Dandelion Drop, a weekly bulletin for practitioners filled with updates and ideas. To request printed copies of key resources for your school reception or office, just <u>get in</u> <u>touch</u>.

### Quick Links

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GUIDE FOR PARENTS

DEPLOYMENT FORM

ATEST PROJECT MAGAZINE





## Promotional Materials for #MotMC

🌭 Logo: Ideal for newsletters, displays, and digital platforms 🚽

Heb Banner: Perfect for websites, social media, or email footers

**F**I Poster Template: Customisable to promote any community event

Content Toolkit: Sample posts, hashtags and captions to help highlight your school or setting's involvement

A range of graphics and ready-to-use content is also available to help showcase everything happening in your setting this April.

Download these resources <u>here</u> – scroll down to Month of the Military Child.

Details about the competition can be found on the next page.







#### **WHO CAN ENTER?**

Any child or young person from a primary or secondary school in Moray.

**THEME:** 

Together we bloom!

**DEADLINE:** 

Thursday 1 May 2025

#### **HOW TO ENTER:**

Ask your school for a t-shirt template or download it from here. Submit entries to <u>DandelionProject@moray.gov.uk</u> or hand in to your school before the deadline.

#### **WHAT'S UP FOR GRABS?**

- Your winning design will be made into a real t-shirt for the Dandelion teddy
- You'll receive your own Dandelion Teddy wearing your design
- A limited number of t-shirts will be printed and shared with schools across Moray

#### Let your creativity grow this Month of the Military Child!

Supported by:



In partnership with:





# MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD 2025



Supporting armed forces children & young people



<u> Activity Sheets</u>

<u>Strengths Paperchain Activity</u>

<u>Assembly Pack, planner and slides!</u>

... and more coming









Celebrating Military Children

Each April, we get to recognise the important role that military children play in the Armed Forces family. NSI provides special opportunities for military children to have their voices heard. Learn more below or **click this link** for FREE Month of the Military Child resources! See 3 ways to get involved below!



#### Competition

The theme of the 2025 poetry and art competition is: **Memories**.

2025 Competition opens April 1 - links to enter will be posted soon!

Open to Military and Civilian children.

Please find the 2024 Winners Booklet to see last year's winning pieces!

Dandelion Meadow by Olivia P. (9-11) Army, 2024 Competition Winner





# Click here to visit the website and access these free resources.



MOTMC - Dandelion Poem



MOTMC At Home Dandelion & Lemon Biscuits



MOTMC School Pack



MOTMC At Home Dandelion Fingerprint Art



MOTMC At Home Dandelion Colouring



MOTMC At Home Dandelion Playdough



MOTMC At Home Dandelion Cupcakes



MOTMC At Home DandeLION Mask



MOTMC At Home Pom Pom Dandelion Craft



PRIL) IS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD.

More ways to get involved



Bolt Burdon



#### the MOD Education Policy Team,



and

# READING

## **Tell us a Story..** Reading Force Memoir Writing Competition 2025

Reading Force is delighted to announce its 2025 writing competition for adults and children & young people.

Prizes include the chance to be published by Pen & Sword publishing house and *Army & You*, *Homeport*, and *Envoy* magazines.

This competition is generously supported by legal firm Bolt Burdon Kemp.

Entries can be submitted from 1st May 2025



Share your celebrations on socials!

# Tag @DandelionProjectMoray & use





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Connect Support Celebrate

- DandelionProject@moray.gov.uk
- **Dandelion Project Moray**

moray.gov.uk/ArmedForcesFamilies



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