

## 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 for a vulnerable individual or whether themes and trends have been identified in specific areas.
- We support our DCS Schools and Settings with implementing positive attendance and early help processes, as well as providing wraparound support.

## 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 qualifications and achieving their aspirations.
- All children, regardless of age, ability or special educational needs, are entitled to an appropriate and full-time education. However, there are many factors in the life of a child or that of their family that can affect school attendance.

## Contact Us

For more specific information on our services, contact: **RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk**

## 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 Act 1989
- Education Act 2002
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

If you become aware of a vulnerable child, young person or adult, contact British Forces Social Work: **www.forcessocialwork.com**



Defence  
Children  
Services

# Education Welfare Service

Guidance for  
professionals



# Education Welfare Officer (EWO)

**Every overseas command location has an allocated Education Welfare Officer. The team sits within the Specialist Support Services branch of Defence Children Services.**

The service is Quad-service, supporting all Army, Navy, RAF and Civilian families overseas.

All EWOs are experienced practitioners with a range of knowledge and skills relating to education, social care, military and local authority education welfare.

We are a voluntary support service, available to support children and families where any attendance related issues or concerns are raised.

This support may be:

- Formal EWO intervention
- Informal EWO intervention
- Advice and guidance to families
- Advice and guidance to DCS Schools and Settings
- Advice and guidance to commands
- Signposting and sharing of resources

# The Role of the Team

- To provide all DCS Schools and Settings with a name Education Welfare Officer who will support the school with identifying and addressing any issues, trends or concerns around attendance.
- To 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).
- To offer informal education welfare advice and guidance to all service personnel and entitled MOD civilians.
- To track and monitor all children who are Missing from Education in line with section 436A of the Education Act 1996.
- To 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.
- To provide subject matter expertise (SME) to commands in all overseas spaces regarding education welfare, attendance and attainment issues.



- To provide SME to commands in all overseas spaces regarding Statutory Children's Social Work intervention.
- Project Management of British Forces Social Work – Rest of World, in line with Army Commercial Contract Management.
- To act as Allegations Manager in role of the Defence Allegations Designated Officer (DADO) alongside the SAFE Team Leader where allegations of a person in position of trust against a child or young person has been made.