

BFG Rebasing Bulletin



Schooling

In this edition of the Rebasing (RB) and Drawdown (DD) bulletin we will focus on schooling in the UK and how to choose and apply for a school place in 2019. I hope that you are already planning ahead and thinking about what schools you might like your child(ren) to attend and how to secure a place for them. With this in mind, I am hoping that the information in this bulletin is not new to you.

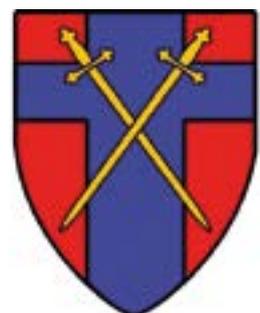
I understand that there is a lot for you to consider to ensure that your child receives the best education available to them. There have been many changes to the education system in recent years and a number of new school types have emerged. This bulletin starts to explain how these different schools are governed and funded in the UK, and identifies the schooling options available across the Salisbury Plain Training Area, which should be helpful if you are rebasing to this area. This also applies to moving to other counties and for those moving to Cyprus.

We have, again, worked closely with the Army Families Federation (AFF) and have identified some frequently asked questions on education and schooling from across the community which are relevant. I would like to reiterate that AFF are an invaluable support organisation to those of us in British Forces Germany and highlight that they work closely with the Children's Education Advisory Service to make sure that Service children are given the best education possible.

Finally, the Admission Rounds for schools in Wiltshire for 19/20 have already opened and for Year 7 (Secondary) admissions the deadline is 31 October 2018.

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AFF have provided some frequently asked questions on the education of Service children. Hopefully these will answer some of your questions too.

For more information on all these topics and lots more related to education visit: aff.org.uk/advice/education-childcare/



(1) Will there be school buses to take my child to school?

It is unlikely that you will require transport to school. Most homes have a school that is within walking distance. However, with increased demand on school places, you may find that your child is not be placed in the nearest school. Generally, the walking distance measurement is two miles for children under 8 years old and three miles for children 8 years and over. This is calculated on the shortest safe walkable route. If you chose the nearest school and you have been allocated a school further away, you may be eligible for free transport for your child.

Unlike school buses in BFG, it is unlikely that a Local Authority school bus will have a bus escort irrespective of the age of the children.

You should note that if you opt to apply for a school outside your schooling area then you will be responsible for getting your children to and from school.

(2) What is the Service Pupils Premium (SPP) and how should it be spent?

The SPP enables schools to provide extra, mainly pastoral, support for children with parents in the Armed Forces. It is paid directly to state schools, free schools and academies across England for supporting Service children. The amount is £300 per child in Years R-11.

You must inform the school that your child is a Service child if you want the school to receive the additional £300 in funding. More information on the SPP can be found on our find out more section.

(3) We are rebasing to Scotland, is the education system the same across the UK?

Education in the devolved administration (England, NI, Scotland and Wales) have slightly different education systems and is delivered in slightly different ways. School years may be categorised differently and depending on when your child's birthday is, you may find that they start at a different time. There are also different public examinations.

If you are moving to Scotland, Wales or NI you will find a number of useful information sources on our find out more section. Here you can also find an overview of the main differences between countries in the UK.

Please note that certain education schemes (i.e. Infant Free School Meals) that are run in England, are not always replicated in the NI, Scottish and Welsh education systems.

(4) The school that I would like my child to attend has a waiting list and I would like to home school until a place becomes available - how do I go about this?

If you are taking your child out of school or de-registering them, you should inform the school and the Local Authority. You should note that the Education Act states that children must receive "efficient, full time education suitable to the child's age, ability, aptitude and any educational special need they may have." This is the case in England and Wales, however Scotland and NI are a little different.

If you are home schooling your child you do not need to keep the same hours or follow the National Curriculum. Home Educational Consultants from the Local Authority, website, blog and local groups can all help.

If you do decide to home school your child then you will be wholly financially responsible for the provision of the education.

(5) I am moving in the middle of the academic year - how do I go about applying for a school place?

Once you have researched and decided which schools you are interested in, you should check with the Local Authority/school website to identify the application method for admissions. The majority of schools admission applications are via the Local Authority Admissions department.

(6) My child did not get into one of the schools that we selected. Can I appeal this?

Yes, if your child did not get into one of your chosen schools then you can appeal. There are a few things that you might want to bear in mind when deciding to appeal or not:

- You don't have to turn down the place offered by the Local Authority when you go through the appeal process.
- You can appeal for a place at more than one school but only to each school once.
- Admission authorities may give priority (but are not bound to do so) to children who are eligible for the SPP in their oversubscription criteria. The school's admission policy will tell you if they do or not.

Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) has parent support advisors who can help you through the whole admission and appeal processes.

CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION ALLOWANCE (CEA)

CEA assists Service personnel achieve continuity of education for their child(ren). CEA is available for all eligible, mobile soldiers.

To be eligible for CEA you must:

- Be serving on a Regular Engagement and not due to discharge within the next 12 months.
- Be maintaining a Family Home within 50 miles of the claimants duty station or granted Involuntary Separation (INVOLSEP) status.
- The child must be aged at least 8 years old in the academic year.
- CEA can be claimed until the end of their stage of education – until 18 years old. Please note that there is the requirement to re-apply for eligibility prior to commencing 6th Form – 2018DIN01-020 gives more detail.

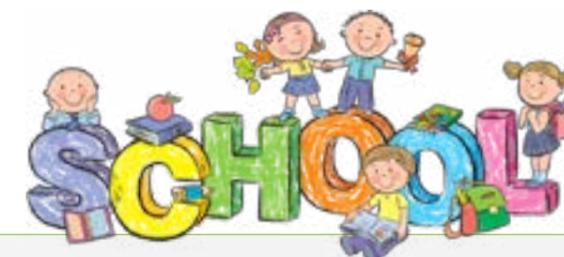
(7) My child has SEND and I am worried about the transition from Germany to the UK. Do you have any tips for moving a child with SEND?

The good news is that the SEND Code of Practice 0- 25 Chapter 10 pp.219 – now recognises the unique needs of Service children with SEND and the possible impact that Service-induced mobility and deployment may have on their specific needs.

Essentially, those providing education should ensure that there is a process to enable all relevant records, for Service children with SEND, are sent and received by the schools on moving, in the UK and overseas, to enable effective planning.

It is recommended that you liaise with your child's current SENDCO well in advance of a move so that the most up to date information can be passed to your child's new school.

To help with this transfer of information, the MOD has developed the Pupil Information Profile (PIP) for Service children, which includes details of a child's SEND.



- CEA will only in exceptional circumstances be granted for initial claimants with a child entering Year 10 or later.

Education allowances per term from 01 August 2018:
CEA Board – Junior: £5,845
CEA Board – Senior: £7,407

- You can access more information on Joint Personnel Administration (JPA).
- You will be required to pay a minimum of 10% parental contribution for independent schools and an 8% parental contribution for State Boarding schools.
- Prior to claiming CEA you must contact Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) for advice. Once the advice has been received, and if you wish to apply for CEA, CEAS will issue you with a Unique Serial Number for your child for use with the JPA application process. For full details on CEA, eligibility and the application process please see JSP 752, Chapter 14.





Types of schools.

In the UK your child(ren) will not have the option of going to a MOD school. They will be entitled to free schooling in a state school between the ages of 5 and 16. Even within the state school sector there are a number of different types of school available for you to choose between. The type of school will determine how the school is governed, funded and also what curriculum is followed.

Community Schools.

Controlled by local council and follows the National Curriculum.

Free schools

Funded by the Government but aren't run by the local council. They don't have to follow the National Curriculum.

Foundation schools and voluntary schools.

More freedom to change the way they do things than community schools.

Grammar schools.

Run by either the council, a foundation body or a trust - all or most of their pupils are selected based on academic ability and there is often an entry exam to obtain a place.

Academies.

Run by a governing body and are independent from the local council - they can follow a different curriculum.

Faith Schools.

Faith schools/academies follow the national curriculum but can choose what they teach in religious studies. They may follow different admission criteria - check early!

Independent/Private School.

Charge fees to attend instead of being funded by the Government. Pupils don't have to follow the national curriculum.

Special schools.

For pupils aged 11 or older who require special educational needs.

Top tips

The earlier a school application is submitted within the window the better. For Main Round applications service families will need to use the postcode of the new barracks location. Your Welfare Teams will be able to advise you on this. Applications can be made online <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-admissions-online> or in paper. You will require a supporting letter signed by the Commanding Officer - again your Welfare Teams will be able to ensure you have this in place. Application timings are the same for all schools across England. If you are moving to Scotland, the key timings may be slightly different so make sure you understand these.

If you apply online you will receive the decision by email on decision day. If you do not apply online you will receive a decision by post which will take longer to get to you.

Moving to Cyprus?

MOD Schools provides both primary and secondary education in Cyprus.
Primary. Primary education in Dhekelia is provided through Dhekelia Primary School (DPS). For more information go to: www.dhekelia.sceschools.com
Secondary. Secondary education in Dhekelia is provided through King Richard's School. For more information go to: www.kingrichardschoolcyprus.com

Need Help and Advice?

Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) provides advice and guidance to parents from all three Services relating to Service children's education. They can advise on issues and difficulties arising from Service-induced mobility and deployment including admissions and appeals, SEND and MOD educational allowances. Contact: www.gov.uk/childrens-education-advisoryservice
 Email: enquiries@ceas.uk.com
 Helpline: 01980 618245

Finding a school.

The Army Basing Programme have provided a list of schools based around each of the main locations across SPTA. This includes new schools opening in September 2018 and September 2019.



LOCATION	PHASE OF EDUCATION	NAME OF MAINSTREAM SCHOOL		
Tidworth	Primary	Clarendon Infants and Junior Schools, Tidworth		
		Zouch Primary School, Tidworth		
		Wellington Primary School, Tidworth.		
	Secondary/Post 16	Wellington Academy		
		Bulford	Primary	Bulford Kiwi Primary School
				St Leonards, Bulford.
	Secondary	Avon Valley College		
		Post 16	Avon Valley College or Wellington Academy	
				Larkhill
St Michael's Primary School, Larkhill (Opening Sept 2018)				
Avon Valley College				
	Post 16	Avon Valley College or Wellington Academy		
		Perham Down / Ludgershall	Primary	Ludgershall Castle Primary School
				Wellington Eagle Primary School (Opening Sept 2019)
	Secondary/Post 16	Wellington Academy		
		Lyneham	Primary	Lyneham Primary
				Secondary/Post 16

OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE AREA

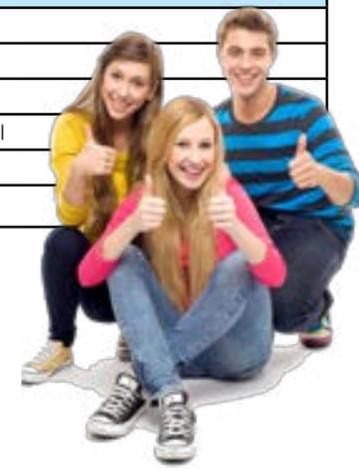
Andover	Secondary	John Hanson Community School
		Harrow Way Community School
		Winton Community Academy
	Post 16	Andover College
		Amesbury
Amesbury Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School		
Christ the King Catholic School		
	Secondary	Stonehenge School
		Bulford
Collingbourne	Primary	
Durrington	Primary	Durrington Infants and Junior Schools
Netheravon	Primary	Netheravon Primary
Salisbury	Secondary/Post 16	Bishops Wordsworth - Grammar school
Salisbury	Secondary/Post 16	South Wilts Grammar School for Girls
Salisbury	Post 16	Wiltshire College, Salisbury
Salisbury	14 - 18	South Wiltshire UTC, Salisbury
Shipton Bellinger	Primary	Shipton Bellinger Primary School

SPECIAL SCHOOLS WITHIN WILTSHIRE

Chippenham	3-19	St. Nicholas School
Deveses	11-16	Downland School
Rowde	11-16	Rowdeford School
Salisbury	3-19	Exeter House Special School
Trowbridge	3-19	Larkrise School
Calne	5 - 18	Springfields Academy

To find and compare all schools in England visit:
www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk

For the Wiltshire County Directory:
<https://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/dirschool/index.php>



Securing a school place for September 2019

The key difference between MOD schools and schools in the UK is that you must go through an application process - your children will **NOT** automatically be allocated a school place.

For most State schools there are two types of schooling applications:

- Main Round - This is for children needing a place in either Reception (FS2), Year 3 or Year 7
- In-Year Transfers - All other school years and mid-year transfers

The application windows for all applications are in the table below. **The main round window is open now!**

Year	Application opening date	Application closing date	Offer date
Reception	1 Sep 18	15 Jan 19	16 Apr 19
Year 3	1 Sep 18	15 Jan 19	16 Apr 19
Year 7	1 Sep 18	31 Oct 18	1 Mar 19
All other years	1 Feb 19	1 Apr 19	Considered from 31 May 19

If your child is entering year 7 in September 2019, you will need to get your application form in by 31st October 2018. Make sure you are not late.

FIND OUT MORE:

CEAS

www.gov.uk/guidance/childrens-education-advisory-service
Email: dcyp-ceas-enquiries@mod.gov.uk
Helpline: 01980 618244

AFF

Education & Childcare Specialist - Jilly Carrell

Tel: 07527 492869
Email: ec@aff.org.uk
<https://aff.org.uk/advice/education-childcare/>
or

Carole Rudd

Email: rmgermany@aff.org.uk

www.gov.uk/schools-admissions/applying
www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables
www.gov.uk/government/collections/service-childrens-education
www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-information-profile-for-military-service-children
www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium

www.relocatemagazine.com/4271education-explained-applying-for-a-school-place-in-england4)

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Please send comments to scs@bfgnet.info