



£3M Support Fund for State Schools with Service Children: 2012: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1. My school only has a small percentage of Service/Reserves children in it, is there any point in me making a bid?

A. The Directorate Children & Young People recognise that in some cases it may be that a school/academy with a smaller percentage of Service/Reserves children may actually be affected in a greater way by mobility or deployment issues. The Directorate would like the Fund to be as inclusive as possible but will need to ensure that value for money in every bid is achieved. It could be that a school with lower numbers of Service children could club together with schools with similar needs and form a joint bid.

Q2. There are several schools/academies in my area, all with similar needs, can we provide a joint bid?

A. Yes, the Directorate would welcome joint bids, these can either be through schools/Academies/Free Schools or from Local Authorities. A joint bid would need to include details of all the schools/Academies/Free Schools that make it up, how the money/resource would be split and in the case of schools/Academies/Free Schools it would require a lead school/Academy/Free School to be identified who would then act as focal point and receiver of the grant. In the 2012 application round joint bids would be particularly welcome as they often offer value for money for both applicants and the Fund.

Q3. Where can I get more information about the Fund?

A. The Directorate Children & Young People will update details on their website, the web address is www.mod.uk/ChildrenAndYoungPeople there will be updates on the process, criteria and in time the success stories from the Fund. Alternatively any question should be directed to LF-PSC-CYP-3MSF-Mailbox@mod.uk or to the Directorate Children & Young People, HQ Army, Ramillies Bldg, IDL 436, Marlborough Lines, Andover, SP11 8HJ.

Q4. Is this Fund the same as the Service Premium and is it just for schools in England?

No, the Fund is separate to the Service Premium (SP) which is provided by the Department for Education. This Fund is provided for by the Ministry of Defence and will be used to assist schools with Service school children throughout the UK. The Fund should not be used as an addition to SP but as an aid to mitigating the effects of mobility and deployment on the school/Academy/Free School.

Q5. I've submitted a bid, what happens next?

A. Bids will firstly be scrutinised by a regional panel (one for each country within the UK) which will make recommendations based on the strength of evidence within the bids against the criteria and a scoring sheet. All bids will then be sent to the funding panel, where the Directorate will review and make a final decision on the successful bids and the allocation of funding. All bidders, successful or not, will be informed of the outcome within two months of the funding panel meeting.

Q6. There are Service/Reserves children within my school but we are not affected by mobility or deployment issues; should I make a bid anyway?



A. On current planning the Fund is limited to £3M per year, for four years from 2011, and priority will be given to those bids that reflect a need based on either current, or future where known, mobility and deployment issues. The Directorate will be taking a broader view of the changing footprint of the Armed Forces, and the needs of their children, and will itself be able to bid against the Fund to provide solutions across a wider area should these be identified, however a key criteria is that the school/Academy/Free School must be being affected by mobility/deployment and a school/Academy/Free School that does not provide evidence of this will be not be able to make a claim for a grant from this Fund.

Q7. I organise an Early Years Foundation Stage childcare facility which has a Service personnel contingent, can I bid for money?

A. Unfortunately not, this Fund is specifically for schools/Academies/Free Schools with Service children in them. It can not be used for childcare facilities or indeed for colleges of further education. The Armed Forces Covenant did outline a £30M Community Covenant Grant Fund which would also be available over the four year period and it may be that this might be able to be used within the wider community services such as childcare facilities.

Q8. We have identified a long term requirement for assistance, what financial support can the MoD supply?

A. On current planning the Fund will be available for four years, 2011 being the first, however the MoD will not be entering into any long term financial commitment and a successful bid should not be seen as the MoD committing any future funding, other than the agreed amount from the bid.

Q9. Is there a limit to the number of bids that a school can make in a given period ie one per term/per year?

A. There will only be one application round in 2012 and it is likely that this will be completed before the summer break; a bid can contain several different items within it (although each element should be individually costed) and this is probably the preferred method rather than having several bids from the same school/Academy/Free School.

Q10. The Fund will have to be divided up between all bids which are agreed. How much can one school realistically bid for?

A. Schools/Academies/Free Schools/local authorities should make a realistic bid for what they actually need but a bid would also benefit from showing what could be done with a reduced amount. Bids will be scrutinised to ensure they show value for money, the Directorate will also be looking across the wider area in case economies of scale mean that it might be more effective to provide alternative solutions to better benefit a higher number of schools/Academies/Free Schools.

Q11. If a bid is rejected is there an appeals process?

A. Each bid will receive a written response of the outcome of their bid which will explain the reason for any unsuccessful bid. There will be no appeals process however unsuccessful schools/Academies/Free Schools would be encouraged to take note of the feedback and resubmit during subsequent rounds.

Q12. I have a bid that will run during our academic year but stretches over fiscal years is this allowed?



A. Yes, however depending upon the timescales and amounts involved you may be asked to apply for a grant in each year rather than getting the full amount in one go.

Q13. Are there any plans for Service Children Education (SCE) schools to be able to bid for funds?

A. As the money can primarily only be allocated to state funded schools, Academies, Free Schools and local authorities in the UK and SCE is a MoD agency serving UK military communities overseas it will not be able to bid for funds. Schools working in partnership with SCE, (or CEAS) or other legitimate parties will have their bids considered.

Q14. Are there a Scotland, Welsh or NI representatives on the final judging panel?

A. There is no regional representation on the Funding Panel; independence is maintained through the families' federation representative and also a representative from MOD central finance. Regional representation is at the Regional Panel and it will be their responsibility to ensure that bids from their areas meet the criteria and are marked accordingly. Part of the role of the Funding Panel is to look "across the piece" and see if there are things that could be carried out throughout the UK that would reach more Service children.

Q15. Will successful applicants from previous rounds be able to apply for a grant in subsequent rounds?

A. Yes, the Funding Panel want the grant to support as many schools/Academies/Free Schools as possible but if there is a particularly strong, well evidenced, application from a previously successful applicant there is nothing to stop them applying in subsequent rounds.

Q16. Why do we need to provide our bank details before we know the outcome of the funding panel?

A. Providing the details in advance allows us to process the payments as quickly as possible after the Funding Panel has sat. A hard copy of your bank details with two authorising signatures is required as part of our official audit trail and to show that you sign up to the terms and conditions associated with the Fund.

Q17. Where do I send my application once complete?

A. Only electronic applications will be accepted for bids against the 2012 £3M Support Fund.

Forms to be considered by the **English** and **Welsh** Regional Panel to be returned to:
LF-PSC-CYP-3MSF-Mailbox@mod.uk

Forms to be considered by the **Northern Ireland** Regional Panel to be returned to:
38X-AWS-CESO-D@mod.uk

Forms to be considered by the **Scottish** Regional Panel to be returned to:
EdinburghGar-SO2Welfare-PERS@mod.uk