



Somerset Armed Forces Day CIC
Company number 13516007

**POSITIVE IMPACT ON SECONDARY SCHOOLS
STATEMENT**

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT POLICY

**ARMED FORCES COVENANT – SCHOOLS CHARTER
STATEMENT**

Version 2026.Final
Agreed by the executive committee February 2026
Review Cycle: Annual

Somerset Armed Forces Day – Positive Impact on Local Secondary Schools

Events like Somerset Armed Forces Day don't just benefit the Armed Forces and the wider public — they create meaningful, measurable impact for local secondary schools across Somerset.

1. Real-World Careers Education

- a. Secondary schools are required to provide strong careers guidance under the Gatsby Benchmarks. Armed Forces Day supports this by:
 - i. Showcasing diverse career pathways (engineering, cyber security, medical, logistics, aviation, communications).
 - ii. Demonstrating transferable skills such as leadership, teamwork and resilience.
 - iii. Providing face-to-face conversations with serving personnel.
 - iv. This enhances careers programmes and gives students tangible examples beyond classroom theory.

2. Enrichment of the Curriculum

- a. The event directly supports multiple curriculum areas:
 - i. **STEM** – Engineering, aerodynamics, mechanics and technology displays.
 - ii. **Computer Science** – Cyber security, communications systems and data protection roles.
 - iii. **History** – Living links to conflict, remembrance and military heritage.
 - iv. **Citizenship & PSHE** – Service, democracy, rule of law and community responsibility.
- b. For schools focused on high-quality curriculum intent and implementation, this offers powerful experiential learning.

3. Character Development

- a. Secondary education increasingly prioritises character education. Armed Forces Day promotes:
 - i. Resilience
 - ii. Discipline
 - iii. Teamwork
 - iv. Leadership
 - v. Service to others
- b. Students witness these qualities in action, making abstract values concrete and relatable.

4. Strengthening School–Community Links

- a. Participation — whether through cadet units, choirs, volunteering or attendance — helps schools:
 - i. Strengthen partnerships with local organisations.
 - ii. Increase visibility within the community.
 - iii. Reinforce civic pride and belonging.
- b. This supports whole-school development and community engagement strategies.

5. Support for Service Families

- a. Somerset schools often educate children from military families. The event:
 - i. Recognises their contribution and unique challenges.
 - ii. Builds peer understanding.
 - iii. Reinforces inclusion and belonging.
- b. This can positively impact wellbeing and pastoral care outcomes.

6. Raising Aspiration

- a. For some students, especially those less engaged by traditional academic pathways, exposure to structured, skill-based careers can:
 - i. Raise aspirations.
 - ii. Provide alternative post-16 routes.
 - iii. Increase motivation and engagement.
- b. It broadens horizons beyond local employment perceptions.

7. In Summary

- a. For local secondary schools, Somerset Armed Forces Day is not just a community event — it is a powerful educational asset. It enhances careers guidance, enriches curriculum delivery, supports character education, strengthens community partnerships and raises aspiration.

Schools Engagement Policy

1. Purpose

- a. Somerset Armed Forces Day CIC is committed to developing positive, educational and inclusive relationships with primary and secondary schools across Somerset.
- b. This policy outlines how we:
 - i. Engage safely and responsibly with schools
 - ii. Support curriculum-linked learning
 - iii. Promote understanding of the Armed Forces community
 - iv. Ensure safeguarding and compliance
 - v. Our engagement aims to inspire young people, strengthen community links, and promote citizenship, resilience and public service values.

2. Scope

- a. This policy applies to:
 - i. Directors
 - ii. Staff
 - iii. Volunteers
 - iv. Armed Forces representatives
 - v. Guest speakers
 - vi. Partner organisations
 - vii. Schools participating in Somerset Armed Forces Day activities

3. Objectives of Schools Engagement

- a. Somerset Armed Forces Day CIC aims to:
 - i. Promote awareness of the role of the UK Armed Forces
 - ii. Support understanding of service life and Armed Forces families
 - iii. Encourage respect, community cohesion and civic responsibility
 - iv. Provide curriculum-linked enrichment opportunities
 - v. Offer safe participation in event-based learning
- b. Activities may include:
 - i. School visits and assemblies
 - ii. Careers talks
 - iii. STEM workshops
 - iv. Citizenship activities
 - v. Art, writing or poster competitions
 - vi. Event volunteering opportunities (age-appropriate)
 - vii. Invitation to attend Somerset Armed Forces Day

4. Safeguarding & Welfare

- a. Safeguarding is paramount. We will:
- b. Follow our Safeguarding Policy at all times
- c. Ensure all speakers and volunteers working in regulated activity have appropriate DBS clearance
- d. Work within each school's safeguarding procedures
- e. Ensure staff and volunteers do not have unsupervised access to pupils unless authorised
- f. Require schools to maintain responsibility for pupil supervision during visits
- g. All concerns must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

5. Curriculum Links

- a. Engagement activities may support:
 - i. Citizenship
 - ii. PSHE
 - iii. History
 - iv. STEM subjects
 - v. Careers Education
 - vi. British Values

- vii. Community & Social Responsibility
- b. We will work collaboratively with schools to ensure content is:
 - i. Age-appropriate
 - ii. Balanced
 - iii. Informative rather than promotional
 - iv. Respectful of diverse perspectives

6. Political Neutrality

- a. Somerset Armed Forces Day CIC operates as a non-political organisation.
- b. School engagement activities:
 - i. Will not promote political parties
 - ii. Will not endorse policy positions
 - iii. Will remain focused on education and community awareness

7. Inclusion & Accessibility

- a. We are committed to:
 - i. Equal access for all pupils
 - ii. Adjustments for SEND students where possible
 - iii. Respect for diverse cultural and religious perspectives
 - iv. Creating inclusive opportunities for Armed Forces families

8. Photography & Media

- a. Written school consent required before photographing pupils
- b. Parental consent remains the responsibility of the school
- c. Images will not be used without appropriate permission
- d. No child will be named without explicit consent

9. Risk Management

- a. For off-site visits (e.g., attendance at Somerset Armed Forces Day):
 - i. A shared risk assessment will be provided
 - ii. Schools remain responsible for pupil ratios and supervision
 - iii. Emergency procedures will be clearly communicated
 - iv. First aid and welfare provision will be confirmed in advance

10. Volunteer & Careers Engagement

- a. Where appropriate and age-appropriate, we may offer:
 - i. Volunteering opportunities for older students
 - ii. Work experience placements (subject to insurance and supervision)
 - iii. Careers pathway talks (military and civilian roles)
 - iv. These will comply with safeguarding, insurance and labour regulations.

11. Monitoring & Review

- a. We will:
 - i. Seek feedback from participating schools
 - ii. Review engagement annually
 - iii. Ensure activities align with community interest objectives
 - iv. Report impact in our CIC annual report where appropriate

12. Contact Information

- a. Schools wishing to engage with Somerset Armed Forces Day CIC may contact:
 - i. **Schools Engagement Lead:** Ed Cullen
 - ii. **Email:** chairman@somersetarmedforcesday.com
 - iii. **Website:** www.somersetarmedforcesday.com

8. Commitment Statement

- a. Somerset Armed Forces Day CIC is committed to working collaboratively with schools across Somerset to provide safe, educational and community-focused engagement that supports young people's understanding of service, citizenship and community responsibility.

Armed Forces Covenant – Schools Charter Statement

1. Our Commitment

- a. Somerset Armed Forces Day CIC proudly supports the principles of the **Armed Forces Covenant** and is committed to ensuring that members of the Armed Forces community are treated with fairness and respect.
- b. Through our engagement with schools across Somerset, we aim to strengthen understanding of service life and ensure that children from Armed Forces families feel recognised, valued and supported within their educational communities.

2. What the Armed Forces Covenant Means

- a. The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly.
- b. It recognises that:
 - i. Members of the Armed Forces community should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens.
 - ii. Special consideration may be appropriate in some circumstances, particularly for the injured or bereaved.

3. Our Schools Charter Principles

- a. When working with schools, Somerset Armed Forces Day CIC commits to:
 - i. **Recognition**
 1. Promote awareness of the contribution of:
 2. Serving personnel
 3. Veterans
 4. Reservists
 5. Cadets
 6. Armed Forces families
 - ii. **Educational Support**
 1. Provide curriculum-linked activities that:
 2. Promote understanding of service life
 3. Highlight transferable skills such as resilience, leadership and teamwork
 4. Support Citizenship, PSHE and British Values education
 - iii. **Support for Armed Forces Families**
 1. Encourage schools to:
 2. Recognise the unique experiences of service children
 3. Be aware of mobility, deployment and transition challenges
 4. Signpost available support networks where appropriate
 - iv. **Safe & Responsible Engagement**
 1. Ensure that all school engagement activities:
 2. Follow safeguarding best practice
 3. Are politically neutral
 4. Are educational rather than promotional
 5. Respect diverse viewpoints
 - v. **Community Cohesion**
 1. Promote positive relationships between:
 - a. Armed Forces personnel
 - b. Schools
 - c. Local communities
 - d. Veterans' organisations

4. How We Put This Into Practice

- a. Somerset Armed Forces Day CIC may support schools by:
 - i. Delivering assemblies or workshops
 - ii. Hosting school visits to Somerset Armed Forces Day
 - iii. Providing careers and STEM engagement opportunities
 - iv. Organising creative competitions (art, writing, history)
 - v. Offering volunteering opportunities for older students
 - vi. Sharing local Armed Forces history resources

5. Alignment With Somerset Armed Forces Day

- a. Our annual event provides:
 - i. Educational displays
 - ii. Safe interaction with service personnel
 - iii. Demonstrations of skills and technology
 - iv. Opportunities to explore careers and community service
 - v. We ensure these experiences are:
 - vi. Age-appropriate
 - vii. Inclusive
 - viii. Educationally beneficial

6. Public Commitment

- a. Somerset Armed Forces Day CIC formally supports the Armed Forces Covenant and commits to upholding its principles in all school engagement activities.