

**Service Children in State Schools
National Executive Advisory Committee**



Voice of Schools Survey 2023 – SEND

Dear Colleague,

Firstly, thank you for taking the time to read this letter as we know how busy everyone is as we start the lead up to Christmas.

We are writing to you on behalf of SCISS NEAC (Service Children in State Schools National Executive Advisory Committee) with some exciting news - and fully appreciate that some of you may never have heard about us or the SCISS organisation!

Briefly, the SCISS NEAC is the 'Voice of Schools' supporting Service children across England and we have been established for almost 20 years. The committee comprises a range of professionals who work with Service families. Over the years, the SCISS NEAC has been instrumental in influencing appropriate government bodies for policy change in support of Service children with one of the successes being the Service Pupil Premium grant. More information about the work of the SCISS NEAC can be found at www.sciss.org.uk/sciss-neac.

In June 2020, we released our first Voice of Schools survey to hear your views on how schools are supported in supporting Service children and the response from you all was truly overwhelming. The report to this survey can be found here (<https://www.sciss.org.uk/voice-of-schools-project/>). Your answers have been used to inform government departments and other organisations in supporting Service pupils alongside the Selous report 'Living in our Shoes' which was published at the same time.

We are now seeking your help again in answering another short survey, this time with a specific focus on SEND - and a chance to win £300 for your school! We want to respond at a national level on your behalf to government departments, policy makers and other related organisations on the topic of SEND and the picture of this in schools in England for Service children.

We believe that this group of children deserve the best provision that our schools can provide. We also want to celebrate and advocate the hard work that schools undertake with this group of children and young people.

We are asking all schools in England with one or more Service children on roll to help shape national key messages around Service children with SEND for stakeholders by taking part in this consultation. A report on the findings and how you have contributed to making a difference nationally will be published in the Spring term. The link for the SEND survey can be found below and will close on Monday 11 December:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SCISS-SEND>

We are really proud of how schools work together to support our Service families and ensure that their experiences are positive and constructive – following the spirit of the Armed Forces Covenant.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your time in reading this letter and for completing our survey and if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via our SCISS website.

We sincerely hope the festivities and events you have planned for the rest of this term go smoothly and that you have a restful Christmas break.

Steph Fawdry
Chair of SCISS NEAC
Headteacher
RAF Benson Community Primary School

Angela Maxted
Vice-Chair of SCISS NEAC
Governor (retired Headteacher)
Shorncliffe Nursery, Folkstone