



OUR SERVICE CHILDREN'S PROMISE

Our messages to the Chief Executive of Rutland County Council

In June 2022, a 2-day Service Pupil event, which had been funded through an MOD support grant, was held to further raise awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant and, particularly, the potential impact on the life of the child of serving personnel.

A morning session, supported through the charity Never Such Innocence, was held with a group of serving personal who attend Rutland primary and secondary schools. This session focused on gathering the children's thoughts through poetry and art, enabling them to reflect on their own lived experiences, and provided them with an opportunity to share their own message to the Council, via postcards to the Chief Executive.

These are the messages from the children's postcards– the bold text is one line each child chose to share from the poem they had written, with their message to Mark Andrews following.

I need my dad to stay home more often because he makes me happy. Dear Mr Andrews, thank you for listening to our voices, please do it next year for more voices to be heard.

My dad is in the RAFA and I am proud. I need my dad to stay home with me. Please can we have another day like this next year?

I deserve to have a peaceful and calm life. Today I enjoyed how we learned about things we didn't know about. I think we should do this next year.

I deserve to stop moving so much. I hope we can get together again and do this.

I deserve to go to a club I own to do art and make things. I am a Panda because although I'm a bear, I don't eat meat. Dear Mr Andrews, I would like there to be afterschool club for us army kids to just talk about our emotions.

I deserve to be a soldier! Today has been a good day and I think it should happen next year.

I deserve to stop moving and stay at Cottesmore. Dear Mr Andrews, Today has been an exciting day for me even that I couldn't stay at school. But I think this should be done again so more people have a chance to do this.

I need to see my dad more often. Today has been an amazing day meeting new schools and learn new things.

I am excited for the future. Dear Mark Andrews. Today I learned all about service families and military. I enjoyed today and I think you should definitely do this again next year. I think you should invite more schools and even other people outside of school. Thank you.

I need a dad that stops going away so much. Dear Mr Andrews, Today has been a day that I will remember till the day I die which will be never!

I am Chevonne and I am adaptable. Dear Mr Andrews, I am proud for speaking out loud. I recommend that you should do this event another time for other service children to come here and speak out loud. **With my freedom I will tell everyone my story.** I have enjoyed today but next time we could have more people coming to this event and people need to understand us! Can we have another day like this?

I am Abi and I have been heard. This has been amazing, and I would like this to carry on. It has helped me realise I'm not alone. Thank you, Mr Andrews.

I deserve my dad to be around more often so we can be a family. Dear Mark Andrews, Today was great. I recommend you do this next year, so all service children have a chance for their voice to be heard. Thanks in advance.

I deserve what everyone else gets! I need a friend I can keep! P.S. Thanks for taking me out of a lesson. Dear Mr Andrews, thank you for today, I really enjoyed but coming from the only secondary school here I think more of them could attend as we felt a little awkward around all the primary schools.

I need to stay in one place. To keep my friendship group together, please! Dear Mr Andrews, I liked doing the poems with Nik and I'm really proud of mine, and you should definitely do this next year.

My dad is in the army and sometimes I miss him. Dear Mark Andrews, I like meeting all the service children and I hope some time we could do it again.

I need more family time. I enjoyed today because I met other service children.

I deserve to be with my dad more. Dear Mark Andrews, I have loved today, and I recommend to you to do this next year so other service children can enjoy it.

The feedback from the poems and the messages to the Chief Executive have informed Rutland's Service Children's Promise, and will influence further events and support for this important cohort of children in Rutland's early years settings and schools.