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Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to provide some clarification about how Service Pupil Premium (SPP) funding can be used to support our service children.

Service Pupil Premium is funding provided by the Department for Education to schools to support children from service families. It is **not an individual budget allocated to each child**, but funding that the school uses to provide support for our wider service pupil community.

The DfE states that the main purposes of Service Pupil Premium are to:

- Provide pastoral support for service children, particularly during challenging times.
- Help mitigate the impact of parental deployment and family separation.
- Support children with the challenges associated with mobility and moving schools.
- Support children's academic progress where the school identifies this as a priority.
- Provide opportunities that develop resilience, wellbeing, relationships and a sense of belonging.

Examples of appropriate uses can include pastoral and emotional support, nurture groups, clubs and activities designed specifically to meet the needs of service children, transition support, and activities that help children develop resilience and build a supportive service community.

It is important to note that SPP **cannot simply be used to pay for routine school costs or subsidise activities that all pupils would ordinarily access**, such as standard school trips or music lessons. However, the DfE does allow schools to use SPP to fund activities specifically for service children where there is a clear link to supporting their needs as service pupils. For example, a trip or team-building activity may be appropriate where it helps children develop a sense of community, build resilience or cope with the particular challenges associated with service family life. Please do get in touch with any ideas you may have.

With this in mind, we want to make sure that our use of SPP reflects the needs and interests of our service children. We will therefore be holding a **half-termly Service Children Meeting**, giving our service pupils an opportunity to share their views and suggest activities they would like to take part in. This could include specific trips, team-building activities, wellbeing activities or other opportunities that they feel would help them connect with other service children and support them through their experiences.

We are very keen that our service children have a voice in how this funding is used, while ensuring that any spending remains within the guidance set out by the Department for Education.

Thank you for your continued support. Please do keep us informed of any service deployments within your families so that we can look at bespoke support. We look forward to working with our service families and, most importantly, listening to our service children about what they feel would benefit them.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Boyes**  
Headteacher