

Guidance for Schools and Education Providers at the Time of Remembrance



Thank you for showing an interest in helping your students at the time of Remembrance. Bereaved children and young people are often described as the 'forgotten mourners,' so your support is appreciated.

Scotty's Little Soldiers

Scotty's Little Soldiers is a charity dedicated to supporting children and young people (0 to 25 years) who have experienced the death of a parent who served in the British Armed Forces.

Inspired by the experience of Army widow Nikki Scott, following the death of her husband Corporal Lee Scott in Afghanistan in 2009, the charity, which was set up in 2010, provides support and guidance to hundreds of bereaved military children and young people throughout their childhood.

Scotty's provides its members with access to bereavement support, outstanding development opportunities and the chance to smile again.

Significant Dates in Bereavement

There are many significant dates during the year that can impact on a child or young person's emotional wellbeing because of their bereavement. For our Scotty Members, and other children and young people who have experienced the death of a parent who served in the British Armed Forces, the lead up to and Remembrance Day itself can be a challenging and emotional time for them and their families.

Many of our members have told us that they don't feel their school or education setting understands how they feel. This, in turn, can make them feel isolated and alone in their grief. We know that schools, colleges and other education providers do their best to promote their student's wellbeing. However, we are told that staff don't always know the best way to support a student who has experienced the death of a significant person in their lives. This Guidance has been produced to help you to support those students for whom Remembrance is a particularly poignant time.

If you know a child whose parent has died and at some point served in the British Armed Forces, please encourage the family to get in touch

www.scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk



Our 11 Tips to Support Students Around Remembrance

1 Ask the student what support they feel they need in the lead up to Remembrance and on the day itself. Involve them in any plans being made to help them. Be clear about who is going to be available and best placed to provide them with that support. Our members have been sent special Scotty's Remembrance 'Time Out' cards that they might wish to use, if you agree.

2 Remember a bereaved child's concentration level can reduce due to their bereavement and the impact of Remembrance. This may mean they need a little extra help keeping up with their schoolwork.

3 Please observe the two-minute silence in your setting, preferably at the correct time. Our members tell us how proud they are at that moment, as they can remember their parent along with the rest of the nation. Some settings choose to hold the silence later in the day, as they find it easier. That can be incredibly upsetting for our members, as they feel their parent doesn't receive the recognition they deserve for their service to their country.

4 Bereaved military children may not react well if other students or staff are perceived as being disrespectful during the silence. Please challenge such behaviour. It is important for peers and adults to understand.

5 Everyone mourns, but we have had examples of our male members being told to "man up" by staff when they get upset. Please be understanding of this issue and help every student to mourn without feeling judged or criticised. A bereaved child is often unable to 'get their emotions in check' and may need some time out to regain their composure.

6 Please be mindful of any lessons that may impact on a bereaved military child's wellbeing. Discussions about war, conflict and Remembrance may affect them. Please discuss any curriculum subjects with the student prior to a lesson so they know what to expect or together you can agree that they should work elsewhere instead.

7 If any student has a supply teacher during the time of Remembrance, please ensure they are made aware of the child's bereavement and the sensitivities associated with it.

8 If a bereaved child has taken time off school or college, they can often get questioned on their return. Their peers may not always understand why they didn't attend on significant dates. Please help the student to explain this and educate their peers.

9 Many of our members tell us that they have experienced bullying and offensive remarks made against them because of their parent's service and/or their bereavement. It can be incredibly demoralising at a time where the student is feeling considerable emotional pain. Please help your students deal with such challenges by offering them a safe space to talk.

10 Encourage the student to tell you about their deceased parent and the work they did in the military. Listen to them. They are proud of their parent's military service and may want to share this information with you. We have provided our members with a Scotty's medal which has their parent's name engraved on it. They may choose to show you their commemorative medal or even ask if they can wear it, as it is very significant to them.

11 And finally, recognise that Remembrance takes place every year. There is no 'getting over it' and their parent's death with upset and impact on the student for many years to come. Next year they could feel differently, and so asking them how you can best support them may start all over again.

“ *At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month – we will remember them.* **”**

The Armistice, an agreement to end the fighting of the First World War as a start to peace negotiations, began at 11am on 11 November 1918. Since then, we mark Armistice Day around the UK with a two-minute silence at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month.



Nikki Scott, Founder - Scotty's Little Soldiers

Work with Scotty's and support bereaved military children

Standby is an education project by Scotty's Little Soldiers, the charity for bereaved military children and young people.

The aim of the Standby project is to help Scotty's members and any child who has experienced the death of a parent who served in the British Armed Forces to feel sensitively supported in their education setting. No young person should be disadvantaged as a result of their bereavement.

Scotty's is able to supply resources offering tips and guidance for education providers to help them to support young people bereaved of a military parent. To subscribe and be notified of these resources, please scan the QR code.



Subscribe [here](#) for more resources

SCOTTY'S LITTLE SOLDIERS
StandBy
MILITARY BEREAVEMENT IN EDUCATION



For Children and Young People



For Supporting Adults

Scotty's has created two short animations titled 'We will always miss them' which focus on supporting bereaved Forces children and young people. One is aimed at children and young people directly, so they do not feel alone in their grief, and the other is specifically for adults supporting a bereaved Forces child.

Use the QR codes to view the animations and learn more about ways you can support students in their grief.

Thank you for your time and support to bereaved British Forces children & young people.

SCOTTY'S LITTLE SOLDIERS