



## Childcare for service children

In recognition of the issues that some Service families can face when trying to access wraparound childcare and its potential negative impact on retention, the Secretary of State for Defence has launched The Wraparound Childcare (WAC) scheme. The launch comes after a series of successful pilots, where the scheme supported Service families by funding wraparound childcare during term time for eligible Service children aged 4 to 11 years old (up to capped rates).

From Autumn 2022, eligible Service personnel (Tri-Service) can apply for up to 20 hours per week, term time only (39 weeks per year) of wraparound childcare funding for 4- to 11-year-old children attending before and after school clubs in the UK.

### Eligibility for Childcare provider

- The WAC provider must be Ofsted, or equivalent, registered, including schools and childminders.
- The childcare provider must also be signed up to the Tax-free childcare (TFC) scheme.

### Eligibility for Applicant

- At least one partner (or single parent) must be serving as an Armed Forces Regular (including Full Time Reserve Service Full Commitment).
- Dependent children aged 4 to 11 must attend school (including home schooled children) and be living with the Serving person for the majority of the time unless separated due to service commitments (deployment, residential courses), or when on serving on unaccompanied assignments overseas involuntarily with the family in the UK.
- Adopted children, children of long-term relationships and domestic partner children, where they meet the eligibility criteria, are eligible. Where the child is normally resident elsewhere for example with another natural parent or relative, the Service person will be unable to claim WAC funding.
- Fostered children are 'looked after children' and the Local Authority (LA) is responsible for them. The way the LA delivers its responsibility is by employing foster carers, but the LA remains responsible for the child.
- The partner of the Service person must be in paid employment, starting or restarting work within the next 31 days (earning the equivalent of 16 hours at national minimum / living wage). Both partners must each have an adjusted net income of £100,000 or less per annum.
- A Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) account must be set up with HRMC for each child that Service Personnel wants to claim the funding for.
- Parents can check eligibility of benefits at <https://discovermybenefits.mod.gov.uk/>

[PEOPLE-AFFS-WAS-FRO-mailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:PEOPLE-AFFS-WAS-FRO-mailbox@mod.gov.uk).