



The Garrison ASSIST Project EMBED

Vision

We want to ensure that provision for SEND children & young people on the Garrison is the best it can be. To achieve this, our group of schools will work towards a consistent approach, and through our dedicated teams of highly trained and knowledgeable staff, we will ensure no time is wasted putting in place appropriate support for our SEND Service pupils.

January 2025

Dear parent,

An important element of this year's 'GAP' priorities is to build on the work undertaken with a small group of parents last year. The outcome of that work was a series of five animated films aimed at raising the awareness of school staff of the additional challenges that some parents of military families face in relation to their SEND children. These films have been very well received - if you haven't seen them, I include links to them at the end of this letter.

We would now like to invite you to join a new parents' working party, representative of all seven GAP schools. The purpose of this group will be to support me and the headteachers in creating a '*Parental Engagement Protocol*' (or Charter) to be advertised and used by **all** schools, including Leeming (RAF) Primary 'down the road', particularly in relation to SEND provision. This, it is hoped, will add consistency to all garrison schools' offer.

It is not anticipated that such a working party will meet that often – perhaps a 2-3 sessions before the end of the academic year, alongside some email communication. Depending on the composition and availability of group members, some meetings might be virtual. Ideally, most of the group's members will have children with SEND – and **all** will need to be from current or former Forces Families.

If you would be willing to volunteer, or if you would like to arrange a conversation to discuss, please email me on the address below.

I'd like to have the working party in place by half-term – so responses are needed by **Friday 14th February**. Please do consider supporting the project as parental input is vital.

Kind regards,

Matt Blyton

Garrison ASSIST Project lead on behalf of the steering group and headteachers
garrisonassistproject@gmail.com



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A series of animated films created by the Catterick Garrison ASSIST Project's Parent Forum December 2024

The purpose of these films is to help school staff, and other professionals, gain a greater awareness of the difficulties that some Armed Forces families with children with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND) face. Whilst not all military families with SEND children have negative educational experiences, many do because of the requirements of their Service.

Introductory film (6 minutes)

It is recommended that this short introductory film is watched first. This provides an overview of the Garrison ASSIST Project (GAP) 2022-2025, before introducing the six contributing parents and their backgrounds. An accompanying PDF about these six parents could then be printed for viewers to refer to whilst they watch the other films.

Introductory Film - <https://vimeo.com/1035656228/7c1393bc9c?share=copy>
Accompanying PDF - <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/0wgdr4hgxd7pllmmahnl0/GAP-Accompanying-Pdf.pdf?rlkey=1nzi91ejnygiaf0m3e95s7t8q&dl=0>

Episode 1: Posting Moves (20 minutes)

<https://vimeo.com/1035655902/e233635da7?share=copy>

Episode 2: Relationships (9 minutes)

<https://vimeo.com/1035655747/e7041944e7>

Episode 3: Parental Separation (19 minutes)

<https://vimeo.com/1035655399/ebfd324818?share=copy>

Episode 4: Language, labels and the challenges of getting a diagnosis (15 minutes)

<https://vimeo.com/1035655061/9a30368a4f?share=copy>

Episode 5: Trauma and Burnout (9 minutes)

<https://vimeo.com/1035654830/2654a8f717?share=copy>