



Defence  
Children  
Services

# MOD Virtual School





# Defence Children Services

The Defence Children Services (DCS) provide professional direction, support and advice in order to ensure that Service children and young people are provided with every opportunity to achieve the best possible outcomes and fulfil their potential.

## What is the MOD Virtual School?

The MOD Virtual School (MODVS) is part of DCS. The MODVS holds responsibility for maintaining oversight of the safety, welfare and education of children, who live overseas in an area that does not have a DCS School or who are electively home educated.

The MODVS does not exist in real terms as a building, the children will not be provided with their education by the team. They remain the responsibility of the school which they attend (or parents for those who electively home educate). Working in partnership with schools and families, the MODVS Team will monitor a child's attendance, achievement and safety.

## How can the MODVS Headteacher help?

The MOD Virtual School Headteacher, who is an experienced educationalist, can be contacted directly if advice and support is needed with any aspects of education overseas, including:

- Special Educational Needs and disability
- Curriculum enquiries
- Academic progress
- Concerns regarding quality of education
- Attendance questions
- Support during transition

Where appropriate, the MODVS Headteacher, will work with the DCS Welfare Team, Overseas Education and Supportability Team and Educational Advisory Team (UK) to support families whilst overseas and as they move back to the UK.



## Who will the MOD Virtual School support?

- Families whose children attend non DCS schools across the world.
- Excluding families in USA, Australia and New Zealand, at present.
- But including children who are educated by their parents at home (EHE) in any country.
- Eligible families will automatically be enrolled in the school once they have gained 'Educational Supportability'.

# How does the process work?

- All Service Personnel are asked to ensure that their JPA record is up to date with all information relating to their children and that it is maintained regularly.
- Once Service Personnel posted overseas have gained 'Educational Supportability' through the present DCS process, eligible children will automatically be enrolled in the MOD Virtual School.
- Data relating to the child and their parents, needed for the purposes of education will be entered onto the DCS School Management Information System (Privacy notice available).
- The MODVS Headteacher will be available to support with advice and guidance. They will liaise regularly with schools abroad to monitor the attendance, safeguarding and welfare of the children enrolled in the school.
- Data will be received from and returned to Local Authorities to ensure that relevant information is not overlooked or missed entirely for children as they transition between postings.

# Contact Us

**Families posted overseas to non-DCS school locations (excluding USA, Australia and New Zealand)**

In the first instance, contact the MOD Virtual School Headteacher:

[RC-DCS-HQ-MODVS@mod.gov.uk](mailto:RC-DCS-HQ-MODVS@mod.gov.uk)

**Families posted overseas to DCS school locations and all schools in USA, Australia and New Zealand.**

Contact: [RC-DCS-HQ-OES@mod.gov.uk](mailto:RC-DCS-HQ-OES@mod.gov.uk)

**Service Personnel requiring general advice with the educational supportability assessment for overseas postings.**

Contact: [RC-DCS-HQ-OES@mod.gov.uk](mailto:RC-DCS-HQ-OES@mod.gov.uk)

**Service Personnel and Entitled Civilians requiring advice or guidance with Elective Home Education.**

Contact: [RC-DCS-HQ-EHE@mod.gov.uk](mailto:RC-DCS-HQ-EHE@mod.gov.uk)

**Service Personnel requiring advice or guidance with UK schooling.**

Contact: [RC-DCS-HQ-EAT@mod.gov.uk](mailto:RC-DCS-HQ-EAT@mod.gov.uk)