



Defence
Children
Services

Overseas Education and Supportability Team (OEST)





Defence Children Services

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

DCS seek to ensure that Service children and young people receive their full entitlement to statutory services and suffer no disadvantage because of their parent's Service status; this is the underpinning principle of the Armed Forces Covenant.

DCS Confirmation of Educational Supportability

The MOD need to be confident that a child's educational, safeguarding and social care needs can be met in any overseas location. Before any Service person travels overseas, they must ensure all their children, from 0 to 18, have DCS Confirmation of Supportability.

The emphasis of the support needs assessment is positive; where possible, we try to ascertain what support will need to be put in place to make a placement successful. If you have any questions about this process, please contact the DCS school in location directly or if you are not going to an area with a DCS school, please contact us.

What is a MASO?

A Multi-agency Assessment of Support needs Overseas (MASO) is a process for assessing whether the resources and support required for a child with additional needs are available in an overseas command/setting. The MASO also gives education, health and social care teams time to prepare for the child's arrival to support smooth transitions.



Advice, Supportability and SEND

If you are considering an overseas assignment, please contact us as early as possible. Whilst it is every parent's responsibility to research and make choices about their child's education overseas, we can advise on the impact the assignment may have on your child's education and give you the information you need to make informed decisions.

We are subject matter experts in SEND and can also provide advice about the factors you may need to consider when looking at special educational needs support overseas; please do contact us to find out more.

Contact Us

For more specific information on our services, please contact the OEST group mailbox:
RC-DCS-HQ-OES@mod.gov.uk

Useful Contacts & Policies

Families Section (For MOD Personnel):

UKSTRATCOM-DefSp-DSCOM-FamSec@mod.gov.uk

DBS (For MOD Civilians):

DBSCivPers-ResourcingTeam1@mod.gov.uk

MOD Policy: Assessment of Support Needs for Accompanied Assignments Overseas

Education of Service Children and Young People: JSP 342

Elective Home Education Overseas

2023DIN01-105

Who are the OEST?

We are a specialist team within Defence Children Services (DCS) with a focus on all issues regarding Service children's education overseas.

How can we help?

- Provide advice and guidance for Service personnel and eligible MOD civilians about education in overseas locations;
- Coordinate the DCS assessment of support needs required for any Service personnel and eligible civilians travelling abroad;
- Provide educational advice on supportability and allowances in overseas locations;
- Coordinate the Service Children's Assessment of Need (SCAN) for children with the highest levels of need in DCS schools and settings;
- Support parents when children have needs that emerge while overseas.