

WRITE TO YOUR MSP

This activity is designed to discuss how your local MSP can amplify the voices of children and young people.

MSPs are there to amplify the voices of children and young people in the Scottish Parliament.

Children and young people have a right to be heard and it can help those not in Armed Forces families understand the positives and challenges.

This activity would be suitable for Second Level learners typically children aged P5-P7

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand how your MSP can help to amplify your voice.
- Be able to identify Charter rights and related UNCRC articles in context.
- Discuss and reflect on the impact of decisions made by adults on their wellbeing.
- Learn what areas your MSP can help (health, education, housing etc)

RESOURCES NEEDED

- A copy of the Forces Children's Charter
- Find your MSP (<https://www.parliament.scot/msps>)
- Write to your MSP blank sheet.
- Example of letters to MSPs from other organisations: An example is attached

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE LINKS

- **LIT 2-29a** I can persuade, argue, explore issues or express an opinion using relevant supporting detail and/or evidence.
- **ENG 2-30a** As I write for different purposes and readers, I can describe and share my experiences, expressing what they made me think about and how they made me feel.

**SCAN FOR
THE RIGHTS
CHARTER:**



www.forceschildrenscotland.org.uk

The Royal Caledonian Education Trust (known as Forces Children Scotland) is a Scottish Charity, SC038722.



INSTRUCTIONS

- Briefly recap the idea of rights and what the UNCRC is.
- Introduce the Forces Children's Rights Charter, especially the themes (e.g. "Best for Me," "Understand Forces Life").
- Discuss the challenges and positives of being in an Armed Forces family. Allow children and young people from this group to share their experiences if they wish.
- Look at the examples of letters and allow the children and young people to discuss what they think is good but what they would improve.
- Let the children and young people write letters and explain how they can post or email their letter to their MSP.
- If they get a response, allow them to share with the rest of the class and help them follow through if needed.

EXTENSION

- Write a persuasive speech instead of a letter, to be recorded or presented to peers or adults in school.
- Create a class newsletter or blog post on children's rights and Forces families

DIFFERENTIATION

- Pre-written sentence starters for the letters (e.g. "I think it's important that..." / "As a Forces child, I feel...").

QUESTION PROMPTS

- What issue matters most to you that you think your MSP can help with?
- How can your MSP help you? In the Scottish Parliament or is there any other way?



Supporting armed forces
children & young people

Dear Mr Smith,

My name is Emily, I'm 13 years old, and I live in your constituency. I'm writing to you not just as a young person, but as a Forces child – my mum serves in the Armed Forces, and because of her job, we have to move home regularly.

One of the biggest challenges I face is losing access to the clubs and hobbies that I love. Each time we move, I have to say goodbye to activities like football, swimming, and cricket – things that bring me joy, help me make new friends, and give me confidence. Unfortunately, when I try to join similar clubs in my new area, I'm often told there are long waiting lists. Sometimes I wait months for a place, and by the time I get one, we're already preparing to move again.

This doesn't feel fair. I strongly believe that children like me, who are part of Armed Forces families, should have equal opportunities to take part in hobbies and activities that support our wellbeing.

As you may know, Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child says that all children have the right to rest, play, and take part in cultural and recreational activities. Right now, that right feels out of reach for me and many other Forces children.

I kindly ask you to take action by raising awareness of this issue and encouraging local councils and clubs to consider how they can be more flexible and inclusive for Forces families. For example, could there be priority places, or more adaptable joining processes for children who move frequently?

I truly hope you will take this into account. With your support, we can make sure that Forces children don't always have to miss out just because of something out of our control.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my letter. I look forward to hearing from you and really hope you can help make a difference.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Blunt

LETTER TO MY MSP



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Your MSP is there to hear your voice and speak to the Scottish Parliament and Government for you. Below, write out what you think they should know about your life and how your rights are affected.

Dear _____,

