



**Combined
Cadet Force**

**NATIONAL
CADETS
WEEK**

A WEEK TO INSPIRE, INVOLVE AND CELEBRATE.

5-11 OCTOBER 2026

CCF Activity Toolkit



WHAT IS NATIONAL CADETS WEEK?

National Cadets Week is an annual celebration of the Cadet Forces and the positive impact they have on young people, schools, communities and the wider society.

Taking place from 5-11 October 2026, the week provides an opportunity for Contingents and community units across the UK to showcase and celebrate the achievements of cadets and volunteers and highlight the vital contribution they make.

Throughout the week, schools are encouraged to bring their Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Contingent into the spotlight. This toolkit provides practical guidance, resources, templates and ideas to help your school and Contingent shine during National Cadets Week. Use the activities that work for your school, adapt them to your circumstances, and use the week to tell your CCF story as widely as you can.

We want National Cadets Week to be a positive and rewarding experience for everyone involved. As you plan your activities, please work within your available time and resources, and only commit to what is realistic for your school and Contingent. Every contribution, large or small, helps celebrate the impact of cadets and volunteers, and is greatly appreciated.

**THERE ARE CURRENTLY 135,000
MOD-SPONSORED CADETS ACROSS THE UK.**

**THE COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF) HAS MORE THAN
48,000 CADETS, REPRESENTING AROUND
35% OF THE UK'S TOTAL CADET POPULATION.**

**THE CCF IS SUPPORTED BY MORE THAN
4,500 CADET FORCE ADULT VOLUNTEERS (CFAVS).**

NATIONAL CADETS WEEK AT A GLANCE.

This is one of the biggest moments in the cadet calendar. The week has a national structure, but how you bring it to life is down to you, your school and your Contingent. Below is a guide to help you choose the activities that work for you.

DATE	FOCUS	YOUR ACTION
 Monday 5 October	Launch Day	Launch National Cadets Week across the school. Deliver a cadet-led assembly, share the national video across socials, publish a school news article, and promote the week's activities on school and CCF social media channels.
 Tuesday 6 October	Cadets in the Community	Showcase how cadets contribute to the school and wider community. Deliver assemblies or tutor-time sessions, spotlight community projects, volunteering, charity work and service activities.
 Wednesday 7 October	Volunteer Celebration	Recognise the contribution of Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAVs), School Staff Instructors (SSIs), school staff and volunteers. Share thank you messages and volunteer profiles on your social media and school channels.
 Thursday 8 October	Cadets Saves Lives	Share stories of cadets applying first aid skills and promote life-saving knowledge.
 Friday 9 October	Skills for Life	Celebrate the skills cadets develop through the CCF. Share cadet and alumni stories, recognise achievements by distributing awards and highlight how cadet experiences support education, careers and life beyond school.
 Saturday 10 October Sunday 11 October	Digital Wrap Up	Publish a final round-up of your National Cadets Week activities, thank supporters, and showcase the impact your Contingent has had on the school and wider community.

Why not use Parade Day to showcase your Contingent by inviting students, staff and parents to see your cadets in action and get involved in some activities? See downloadable toolkit.

USE THIS HANDY GUIDE OF SUGGESTED BENCHMARKS TO HELP PLAN YOUR INVOLVEMENT...

BRONZE

CELEBRATE YOUR CADETS.

- Deliver an assembly or tutor time activity.
- Create a display board or celebrate cadet achievements.
- Share at least one NCW story, photo or social media post.
- Display your Proud to be CCF badge digitally.
- Share your impact data.

SILVER

INVOLVE OTHERS.

- Everything in Bronze.
- Share information about CCF and National Cadets Week to parents/ carers and your wider school network.
- Invite new people to parade activity.

GOLD

INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION.

- Everything in Silver.
- Present an NCW award or recognise volunteers.
- Secure local media coverage or share a case study demonstrating your Contingent's impact.
- A bespoke presentation or open event.

BACK TO SCHOOL.

Here are a few simple steps you can take now to make the most of **National Cadets Week**...

1

Brief your Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, staff, trustees and governors on your plans for National Cadets Week before the start of October. Share the aims of the week and highlight how activities can support wider school priorities, including leadership, personal development, enrichment, citizenship and community engagement.

2

Take time to brief your cadets. National Cadets Week should be led by cadets wherever possible. September is a great time to explain the purpose of the week and identify senior cadets who would like to take an active role in planning and preparing activities. Giving cadets time to prepare will help build confidence and ensure activities are meaningful and well delivered.

3

Work with your school's communications team, marketing lead or staff responsible for social media to agree how National Cadets Week and the opportunities within CCF will be promoted. This includes how you use your own channels and how you will engage with CCF and national channels too. We've prepared helpful templates to make this as easy as possible.

4

Gather your impact data. Before National Cadets Week begins, collect information that demonstrates the contribution your Contingent makes to the school and wider community. This might include the number of cadets enrolled, hours volunteered by CFAVs and school staff and community service hours completed by cadets, number of students trained in first aid and DofE awards completed. These statistics can be used throughout the week in assemblies, social media posts, school communications and stakeholder engagement.



WHERE TO FIND EVERYTHING.

We've prepared a host of ideas specifically for CCF schools, including templates for tutor time activity, assembly presentations, communications materials, certificates, press releases, event ideas and social media assets. These downloadable resources are available via the National Cadets Week resource hub.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES.

Supporting you to make plans across the week.

National Cadets Week is your moment, but we know it comes just a few weeks into a busy new academic year. That's why we've developed a selection of simple, flexible activities to help your Contingent take part with minimal preparation, however if you choose to do so you can develop your own fitting with the themes. Choose the ideas that work best for your school and young people, and make the week your own.

Below are activities which have been created and available on the resource hub.

ASSEMBLY:

PRESENTATION
TEMPLATE

TUTOR TIME ACTIVITY:

THE INJURED
CASUALTY

TUTOR TIME ACTIVITY:

COMMON GROUND
CHALLENGE

BRING YOUR OWN:

SHOWCASE YOUR
CONTINGENT

NATIONAL CADET WEEK DISPLAY BOARD

TOP TIPS

Put the display in a busy area of the school. Use lots of photos and student quotes. Involve cadets in creating the display. **Update it throughout National Cadets Week and include key opportunities for other students to get involved.**

A display board is a simple way to celebrate your cadets during National Cadets Week and help the wider school community learn more about the CCF. **What to include:**

CADETS IN ACTION:

- Photos from camps, training, expeditions and school activities.

EXAMPLES TO SHOWCASE:

- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Confidence
- Resilience
- First Aid

YOUR IMPACT:

Share a few key statistics, such as:

- Number of cadets
- Volunteer hours given by staff and CFAVs
- Community service hours completed
- First aid qualifications achieved

CADET VOICES

Add short quotes from cadets about what the CCF means to them.

RECOGNITION

Create space so students, staff and visitors can add to the board and recognise cadets and volunteers.

IN-SCHOOL AWARDS.

IN-SCHOOL AWARDS

National Cadets Week is a great opportunity to recognise the achievements of cadets and volunteers, and to celebrate the positive contribution they make to school life and the wider community. We are encouraging schools to use the week to recognise cadets and volunteers who have demonstrated the values and qualities that underpin both the CCF and successful school communities.

The Leadership, Resilience and Community Awards are designed to celebrate young people who lead by example, overcome challenges and make a positive difference to others. These awards can be presented during an assembly, parade session or through your school's communications channels.

To support this, we have created a set of National Cadets Week certificates that can be awarded to cadets in recognition of their outstanding contribution and achievement. This can be personalised to include your school logo.



TOP TIPS

Ask staff, volunteers and cadets to submit nominations.
Celebrate achievements of all sizes, not just major successes.
Share award recipients on school noticeboards, websites and social media.

LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award recognises a cadet who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, either within the CCF or the wider school community.

Examples might include:

- Leading by example
- Supporting and mentoring younger cadets
- Taking responsibility during activities and events
- Demonstrating initiative and good judgement
- Encouraging others to achieve their best

RESILIENCE AWARD

This award recognises a cadet who has shown determination, perseverance and the ability to overcome challenges.

Examples might include:

- Showing perseverance through a difficult challenge
- Demonstrating a positive attitude when things do not go to plan
- Overcoming personal barriers or setbacks
- Supporting others through challenging situations
- Displaying commitment and dedication over time

COMMUNITY AWARD

This award recognises a cadet who has made a positive contribution to their school or wider community.

Examples might include:

- Volunteering their time to support others
- Taking part in community projects
- Supporting charity fundraising activities
- Contributing to school events
- Acting as a positive ambassador for the school and CCF

**DOWNLOAD THE CERTIFICATE ON THE
RESOURCE HUB**

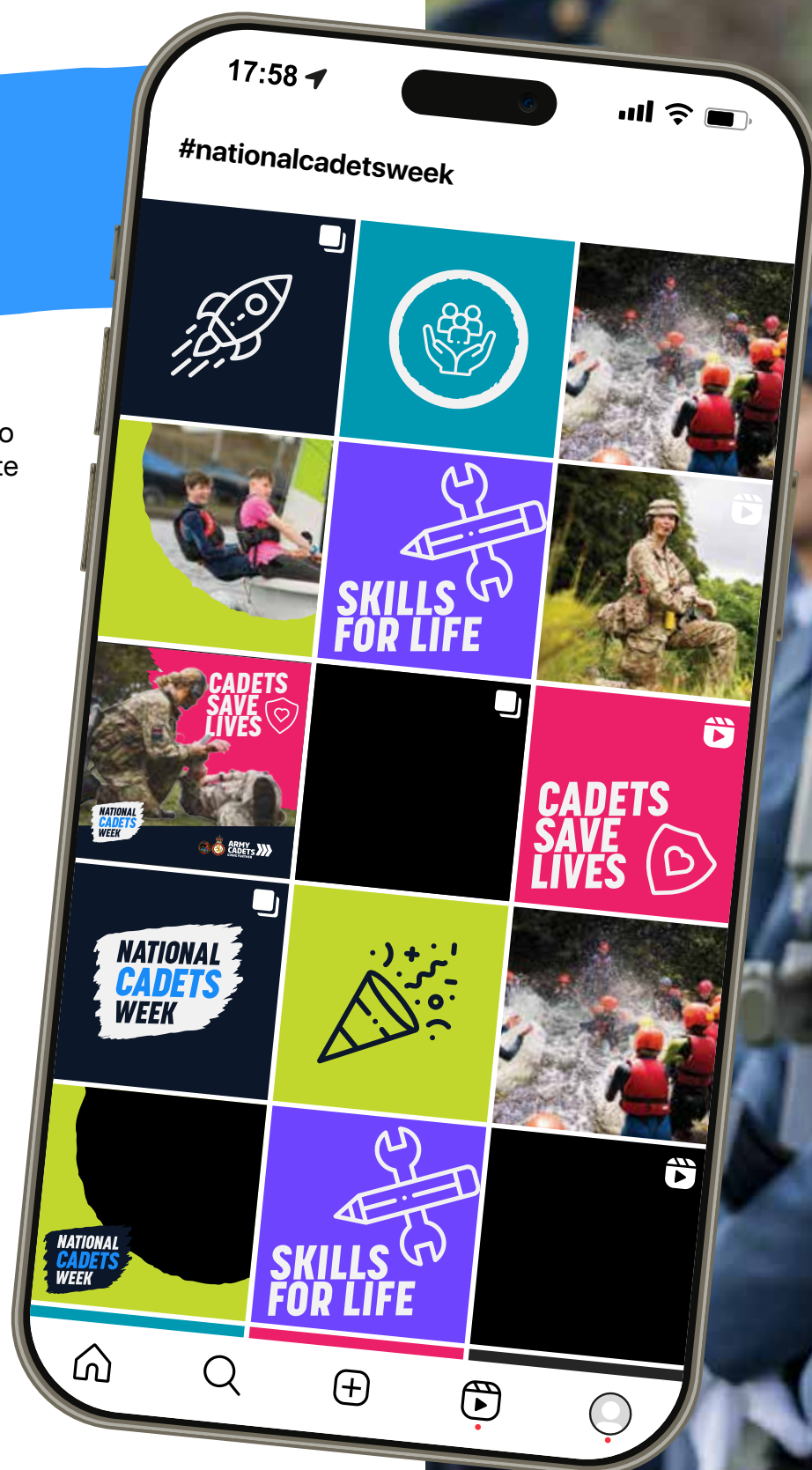
COMMUNICATION SUPPORT.

National Cadets Week is a great opportunity to share the story of your Contingent and celebrate the impact of cadets and volunteers across your school community. To help make this as straightforward as possible, we have created a range of ready-to-use communications resources, including social media posts, website content, press release templates and stakeholder communications. These can be used as they are or adapted to reflect your school's activities and local stories throughout the week.

SOCIAL MEDIA.

Social media is one of the most effective ways to celebrate National Cadets Week and showcase the impact of your Contingent. Whether you're sharing cadet achievements, recognising volunteers or highlighting activities taking place across the school, every post helps tell the story of the Combined Cadet Force to a national audience.

You don't need professional equipment or a large following. A smartphone, a great photo and an authentic story are often all you need.



WHEN TO POST.

DATE	FOCUS
Monday 5th October	Launch Day
Tuesday 6th October	Cadets in the Community
Wednesday 7th October	Volunteer Celebration
Thursday 8th October	Cadets Saves Lives
Friday 9th October	Skills for Life
Saturday 10th October Sunday 11th October	Wrap-Up

YOUR ACTION	EXAMPLE CAPTION
Introduce National Cadets Week and explain what is happening across your school. Share photographs of cadets, your display board or a launch assembly. – This should be driven towards recruiting new cadets with chances for others to try it out for a week without any commitment.	<i>We're proud to be taking part in #NationalCadetsWeek. Throughout the week we'll be celebrating our cadets, volunteers and the positive impact they make across our school community.</i>
Share examples of how cadets contribute to the school and wider community. Highlight volunteering, fundraising, remembrance activities or other service projects.	<i>From supporting school events to volunteering in the local community, our cadets make a positive difference every day. #NationalCadetsWeek</i>
Recognise CFAVs, SSIs, school staff and supporters. Share volunteer profiles or thank you messages from cadets.	<i>National Cadets Week is also an opportunity to thank the volunteers and staff who make these opportunities possible. We couldn't do it without you. #NationalCadetsWeek</i>
Showcase first aid training through demonstrations or challenges. Share any stories of cadets applying their first aid skills in real life scenarios.	<i>Today we're recognising the life-saving skills developed through the CCF. First aid is just one of the many practical skills our cadets learn. #NationalCadetsWeek</i>
Share cadet stories, achievements and examples of skills developed through the CCF. Consider highlighting alumni stories too. E.g. where are they in industry and how did cadets help them to get there?	<i>Leadership, teamwork, resilience and confidence. Our cadets develop skills that support them both in school and beyond. #NationalCadetsWeek</i>
Share highlights from the week, photographs, awards and key moments. Encourage cadets, parents and staff to engage with and share content and personal stories on how the CCF has impacted their family. Include impact statistics where possible.	<i>What a fantastic week celebrating our cadets and volunteers. Here are some of our National Cadets Week highlights. #NationalCadetsWeek</i> <i>As National Cadets Week comes to an end, we'd like to thank everyone who helped us celebrate the incredible contribution of our cadets and volunteers. #NationalCadetsWeek</i>



INDEX OF LINKS.

To save you the trouble of looking back through the booklet, we have created a handy links index for you to download your editable templates and get going! **Click on the links below.**

PRESS RELEASE TEMPLATE

AWARD TEMPLATES

ASSEMBLY TEMPLATE

TUTOR TIME ACTIVITY: THE INJURED CASUALTY

TUTOR TIME ACTIVITY: COMMON GROUND CHALLENGE

NCW BRAND TOOLKIT

BRING YOUR OWN

PROUD TO BE CCF BADGE



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Get in touch at hello@cadetsinschools.org
Or tag us @CadetsInSchools, @MinistryOfDefence and use
#NationalCadetsWeek