



Small Heath
Leadership Academy



Combined
Cadet Force

SMALL HEATH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



COMBINED CADET FORCE (RAF)

INTRODUCTION

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is a national scheme run in conjunction with schools and the Ministry of Defence. It is designed to offer unique learning challenges and opportunities for young people. At Small Heath Leadership Academy, the Cadet Force unit will be attached to the Royal Air Force (RAF). The Cadet Force's mission is:

'To prepare Cadets for success in their chosen way of life, increasing their awareness and understanding of the Armed Forces and their role in society by delivering enjoyable, well organised, military-themed activities in a challenging and safely-managed environment'.

The aim of the CCF is to develop the cadets' powers of leadership, initiative and independence through the many and varied activities.

The CCF has been successfully run in schools for many years and has helped thousands of young people develop key life skills such as confidence, self-discipline and resourcefulness. At Small Heath Leadership Academy, the CCF will complement the STAR values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect. It will contribute to the leadership specialism of the school and help every cadet access activities within each of Star's five leadership foundations of Sport, Creativity, Performing Arts, Enterprise and Careers, and Charity and Social Action.

The CCF in schools is supported financially by the Ministry of Defence, but is not part of the Armed Forces. The CCF follows some of the customs and traditions of the Armed Forces, such as using the same rank structure, and taking part in some physical agility training, but the organisations are separate. **There is no commitment to military service of any kind, for the cadets or adults involved.**

The focus of the CCF is to provide active and adventurous training and to give young people opportunities for personal development outside of the classroom. As a school, we are confident that the skillset required as part of the CCF will fully complement the academic aspect of learning. Examples of such skills are collaborative learning, personal responsibility, confidence and resilience.

The CCF offers young people challenging adventurous and community-based activities, with the aim of inspiring them to achieve success in their life with a sense of being proud to be a British citizen and a sense of belonging and duty to themselves and the National Community.



HISTORY OF THE CCF

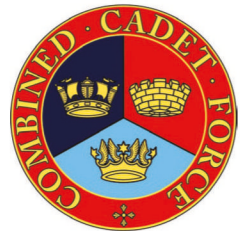
The tradition of CCF in schools goes back over 150 years to the 1850s. In 1948, the Combined Cadet Force was formed, covering cadets from all three services.

In 1859, the idea of cadet units in schools was developed by the Secretary of State for War, Jonathan Peel - who wrote to public schools and universities, inviting them to form units of the Volunteer Corps. Several schools took up the idea, and the first Cadet Corps in a school was formed in 1860 at Rossall School. Other units formed soon after at Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Hurstpierpoint and Felsted School - although Felsted School's armed drill contingent pre-dated the 1859 letter from the War Office.



These early units were focused on Army activities, and were usually associated with Rifle Volunteer Battalions for Home Defence, with cadets wearing the uniforms of their parent volunteer battalions. The Corps evolved over time, focusing on Officer Training - and during World War I and II, many of the young men who served in the units went on to serve their country in the Armed Forces.

After World War II, the structure of the Armed Forces changed, including the cadet units in school, which became the Combined Cadet Force in 1948 - incorporating sections from all of the Armed Forces, the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force. Over the following decades, the focus of the group moved away from being a recruitment pathway into the Armed Forces and the number of CCFs in state schools slowly increased.



Today the Combined Cadet Force contingents are very different to those early groups of young people. Although they are still based on the ethos of the Armed Forces - their focus is on helping young people to develop and reach their full potential by providing challenging, active, adventurous and fun activities. The sole intention of the cadet force opening at Small Heath Leadership Academy is to support in the development of the character of our pupils so that they can go on to achieve the highest attributes at a personal, academic and professional level.

WHAT IS THE CADET EXPANSION PROGRAMME?

The Cadet Expansion Programme (CEP) was launched on Armed Forces Day in June 2012 by the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister with the aim to deliver 100 new cadet units in English state-funded schools by September 2015.

This CEP target was reached 6 months early in March 2015 and following this achievement, the government committed an extra £50 million to further increase the number of cadet units in schools across the UK, bringing the total number to 500 by 2020. Small Heath Leadership Academy has been in a very privileged position to be considered as part of the second round of increasing the number of cadet schools.

The CEP is part of the Government's aim of promoting a regimented, highly disciplined ethos in schools; to instil values in young people that will help them get the most out of their lives, and to contribute to their communities and country. This means pupils developing qualities such as self-discipline, loyalty and respect, strong leadership, teamwork and resilience, which will help them achieve excellence and shape their own future. This complements our STAR values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect.



ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING

This is an exciting opportunity for students to learn key skills in line with the academy vision including key elements of leadership, teamwork and respect. Being part of the Cadet force has several benefits:

- Character and Leadership Development through activities and networking
- Respect and understanding of Fundamental British Values
- Benefits of 'standing out' on your CV and personal statement
- Provides exciting and varied opportunities around Star's five leadership foundations of Sport, Creativity, Performing Arts, Enterprise and Careers, and Charity and Social Action.

Studies confirm that cadets attributed improved levels of self-confidence, self-efficacy, independence and coping in social relationships to their participation in the local cadet programme. On average, cadets serve around four years in the CCF, starting from Year 8. The training is steadily progressive allowing them to progress from basic qualifications, through to more advanced qualifications and progressing onto the Leadership levels of achievement.

The Combined Cadet Force gives young people - from all walks of life - access to fun, friendship, action and adventure. We challenge young people to learn more, do more and try more. We inspire them to aim high and give them the skills, values and attitudes to go further in life, no matter what they aim to do.

CURRICULUM CONTENT OF CCF

Cadets follow a syllabus which becomes more challenging each year. The training is designed to be practical, rather than classroom-based, whenever possible. The training should be interesting, imaginative and purposeful and includes competitions, exercises and games. The training will provide experiences linked to Star's five leadership foundations of Sport, Creativity, Performing Arts, Enterprise and Careers, and Charity and Social Action. Subjects that you learn include the following:



FLYING & GLIDING

Joining the RAF Cadets opens up lots of opportunities, including the chance to fly! It's our aim to get cadets airborne as often as possible, as a passenger in a light aircraft, a glider or even on-board RAF aircraft such as our Typhoon fast-jet or a Chinook helicopter.



CADET AND THE COMMUNITY

The Combined Cadet Force plays an active role in the local community. A major part of the training for any cadet is citizenship training. Through participating in community projects, cadets will build an understanding of how a community functions and the difference you can make now or in the future.

Projects may involve helping to re-build a local children's play area, clearing rubbish from riverbanks or planting trees and visiting elderly residents in rest homes to give them company. The community involvement element of the Combined Cadet Force syllabus also sits well with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award's service section. Here, you can combine your community interest project to gain a pass in both areas.



ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

Adventurous training is an essential part of the Air Cadets training syllabus and the place where team effort really matters – cadets will build new friendships and learn to rely on working together with other people to get a job done. It also helps cadets develop their leadership skills.

Nothing is compulsory so the activities can be tailored to individuals. There is a wide range of adventurous activities to get stuck into, such as rock climbing and canoeing. All activities are supervised by qualified trainers who will ensure cadets get the most out of it.

Between local activities and visits to camps, cadets may have the chance to experience kayaking, hill walking, camping, caving, mountain biking, offshore sailing and winter sports to name just a few.



SHOOTING

All cadets will have the opportunity to try their hand at military skills and drills including shooting. Learning about shooting will teach cadets a number of key skills, the most important of which are discipline and safety awareness. It also brings with it a great sense of achievement.

The cadets will learn to shoot accurately using a range of cadet rifles, but they will not be allowed to shoot any rifle until they have demonstrated a full understanding of the use of the rifle and the vital safety procedures.

Ranges come in different shapes and sizes but all are in controlled conditions with full training on any weapon that cadets handle - safety is our top priority.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Elements of the CCF syllabus can be accredited towards a Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award. The DofE's mission is simple - 'to inspire, guide and support young people in their self-development, and recognise their achievements'. The DofE Awards take young people through a programme of activities that will leave them more confident, motivated and capable. The Combined Cadet Force is proud to be the Duke of Edinburgh's Award largest participant.

The DofE Awards are open to any young person aged 14 or over. There are three levels which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold DofE Award.



TRAINING & EDUCATION

Aside from all the great experiences and new skills that cadets gain, they can also take away recognised qualifications that will set them apart from the crowd when they head to university or begin their chosen career.

For starters there's the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award that employers everywhere recognise as a great achievement.

Cadets can also complete the following training and qualifications:

- › Leadership training, where cadets can really prove their worth as leader - a skill that will build confidence and the ability to deal with different kinds of people. Cadets can participate in a Junior Leaders course.
- › BTECs are always popular and a widely recognised qualification - more than 4,000 cadets have registered for the First Diploma in Public Services and over 6,000 have signed up for the First Diploma in Aviation Studies. There's also the increasingly popular First Diploma in Performing Arts (Music) for budding musicians.
- › First Aid is another essential skill cadets can pick up - train in this important area and they may be awarded a certificate from St John Ambulance.
- › Cadets can also benefit from certain vocational City & Guilds qualifications in management, as can CCF volunteers.



PARADE & DRILL

What's the point of drill and parade? You may think it doesn't have much to do with things like adventurous training, or leadership. That's not the case at all! It shows how disciplined and organised cadets can be as an individual, remembering instructions and carrying them out accurately. More importantly, it shows cadets' ability to work in a team and is a way of displaying the high standards of dress and behaviour which air cadets are renowned for.

When a group of twenty cadets walk onto a parade square they are all individuals, but as soon as a session of drill begins the cadets become a team, following the orders given by one person. Instead of twenty individual feet hitting the ground, there is only one sound. This is the result of practice and teamwork.

Drill is also used when cadets are moving around in large groups in a smart, orderly fashion. Whatever the reason for a drill it's an impressive sight and demonstrates to civilians and members of the Armed Forces just how well disciplined cadets are.

Cadets will participate in various forms of drill, such as:

- > Foot Drill
- > Basic Drill (both quick & slow time)
- > Banner Drill
- > Band Drill

With a few years' experience, and if cadets have attained a Non-Commissioned Officer rank, they could pass on their knowledge and experience to other cadets, instructing them on how to participate in a drill squad, taking charge of a drill squad, or even playing a major part in a ceremonial drill. Being a Standard Bearer at a Remembrance Day parade is a real moment of pride and achievement for a cadet.



CAMPS

Cadets will get the opportunity to attend camps both in the UK and overseas (there is a cost, but financial support can be sought). These camps mainly take place on RAF stations and cadets will be given the opportunity to visit departments on the station take part in a wide and varied programme during your stay (normally a week).



STRUCTURE OF THE CCF WITHIN THE SCHOOL

Each school with a CCF will have a Contingent Commander, an experienced CCF Officer. They will be responsible for the safe running and administration of the contingent. Other CCF Officers and support staff will be volunteers from the school staff, or sometimes from the broader community.

Alongside the Contingent Commander will be a School Staff Instructor, who will support the smooth running of cadet activities.



TRAINING WITHIN SCHOOL

The Cadet Force will meet once a week during term time, normally after school for 1.5 to 2 hours. In the school holidays, cadets will also have the opportunity to attend camps.



JOINING THE CADET FORCE

The school's Cadet Force is a completely voluntary extra-curricular activity offered to all pupils who are aged 12 years and above in September. Places will be limited to around 30 cadets and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

THERE IS NO COMMITMENT OR EXPECTATION FOR CADETS TO JOIN THE ARMED FORCES WHEN THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR SCHOOLING.



Part of Star

Small Heath Leadership Academy | Muntz Street, Small Heath, Birmingham B10 9RX
0121 464 7997 | info@smallheath.staracademies.org | smallheathleadershipacademy.com