We commit to uphold the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the contribution that Service personnel, both regular and reservist, veterans and military families make to our organisation, our community and to the country.

Signed on behalf of:

Yeovil College

Signed: 

Name: Mark Bolton

Position: CEO and Principal

Date: 24.09.26

The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
His Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most, such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

Section 1: Principles of The Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 Yeovil college, will endeavour to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant:

- *Members of the Armed Forces Community should not face disadvantages arising from their service in the provision of public and commercial services.*
- *In some circumstances special provision may be justified, especially for those who have given the most, such as the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 Yeovil College recognise the contribution that Service personnel, reservists, veterans, the cadet movement and military families make to our organisation, our community and to the country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant by:

- Promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces friendly organisation. Seeking to engage with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) to advertise in the Armed Forces community, to support raising awareness of employment opportunities we have available to veterans and service leavers.

- Welcoming applications from service leavers and veterans who meet the essential criteria of the job specifications.

- Supporting the employment of service spouses, partners and dependants by seeking to advertise vacancies on Forces Families Jobs and welcoming applications from spouses/partners who meet the criteria in the job specification.

- Signposting members of the Armed Forces Community to available support, for example from organisations such as Cobseo, the Veterans' Gateway.

- Endeavouring to offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for service spouses, partners or dependants and where appropriate close family, before, during and after a partner's or close family member's deployment.

- Supporting our employees who are already members of the Reserve Force, including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible.

- Offering support to cadet units in our local community where possible.

- Aiming to actively participate in Armed Forces Day and Remembrance activities with our college community.

- Support and promote the wellbeing of Service children, recognising the particular experiences and challenges they may face.

- Promote training and further/higher education opportunities for Service leavers, ex-Service personnel and their families.