



Gathering Points

Prevailing values

Quakers say

We are called to live in virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars. Do you faithfully maintain our testimony that war and the preparation for war are inconsistent with the spirit of Christ? Search out whatever in your own way of life may contain the seeds of war. Stand firm in our testimony, even when others commit or prepare to commit acts of violence, yet always remember that they too are children of God. *Advices and queries 1:31.*

Schools and the military

Schools often programme in time for military recruiters to come to school to talk about careers in the military forces. They often try to encourage students to join military recruitment programmes and do not always give a balanced view of the realities of a career in the armed forces.

The following two passages present alternative views about this:

“The armed forces engage with schools and colleges in a wide variety of ways, from providing lesson plans and teaching resources, to presentation teams in assemblies, careers talks, away days, cadet forces etc. For the armed forces, the primary purpose of providing resources and activities for schools and colleges is not to benefit the school.”

ForcesWatch Questioning the presence of armed forces in schools

<http://forceswatch.net/resources>.

“Our overall rationale for engaging with schools is to encourage good citizenship, provide an environment which raises awareness of the MOD and Armed Forces among young people, provide positive information to influence future opinion formers, and to enable recruiters to access the school environments. In addition, our engagement demonstrates active support for Government Youth Policies and also provides skill development for young people in schools.”

A report published by the Ministry of Defence in 2007, called ‘Engagement with UK Schools.’