

## FAQ's on the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

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### Patron of the Marine Society and Sea Cadets

- **Was Her Majesty The Queen our Patron?**

Yes. Her Majesty The Queen was the patron of Marine Society & Sea Cadets, which is the national charity behind Sea Cadets in the UK. The Queen had been our patron throughout her 70-year reign until her death on 8 September 2022.

- **Who replaces The Queen?**

At the moment the Queen died, the throne passed immediately and without ceremony to the heir, Charles, the former Prince of Wales. He will be known as King Charles III and his coronation is likely to be sometime in 2023.

- **Who is the patron of the Sea Cadets now?**

For now, we do not have a patron. The Royal Household will consider the appointment of a new royal patron over the coming months. In the interim, the charity is proud to have HRH The Princess Royal as Admiral of the Sea Cadet Corps and Admiral Sir Philip Jones as President of the MSSC.

- **How many days of mourning will there be?**

A period of National Mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has now started. The period of National Mourning will continue until midnight on Monday 19 September, following the State Funeral. The Royal Family will undertake a separate period of Royal Mourning, subject to the wishes of The King.

- **What happens in the days of mourning?**

National Mourning is a period of time for reflection for the whole country in response to the death of The Queen.

For Sea Cadets parade nights and authorised SCC training activities will continue throughout the period of National Mourning, but with appropriate solemnity and respectfully. All social, fundraising, competitions etc during this period will be postponed. Units may participate in community commemorations as detailed later.

Work at area offices, the National Support Centre and all of our national training centres and boat stations will continue in support of Sea Cadets activity. The offices will be closed for the State Funeral bank holiday on Monday 19 September.

- **Are units, or individuals, permitted to participate in external commemorative events or services?**

Units invited to participate in organised local civic authority events may wear uniform when doing so.

Individuals invited by local civic authorities or the Royal Navy to act as representatives of the Sea Cadet Corps or the Royal Navy at commemorative events may wear uniform.

If in doubt do not wear uniform.

Senior volunteers should ensure that the appropriate Public Military Events (PME) authority is in place if they plan to wear uniform and appropriate risk assessment is conducted to cover the unit's participation, and transport to and from the event.

- **Am I allowed to wear my uniform when attending or spectating at the Lying in State or State Funeral?**

No; unless you have been allocated a specific official task by Captain Sea Cadets. However, volunteers and cadets are welcome to wear medals with smart civilian attire.

- **Can I wear my uniform at any other event / activity that I am attending in a personal capacity?**

Not during the period of National Mourning which runs until midnight on Monday 19 September. However, volunteers and cadets are welcome to wear medals with smart civilian attire.

From Tuesday morning, consent to wear your uniform at an event / activity that you are attending in a personal capacity must be gained in advance from your CO /OIC. Without this you are not to wear your uniform.

- **Can I wear my uniform to participate in the nationwide periods of silence?**

Yes. You will not require permission to do this if undertaken in your home, on your doorstep or in your garden.

- **Why do the Sea Cadets observe the period of mourning?**

The Queen was our Patron from 1952 – 2022, since her coronation. We show our respect for The Queen our Patron and all that she has done for the UK, the Commonwealth and the world by mourning her loss.

- **Why are some people sad?**

People are sad about The Queen's death because she reigned for 70 years and has been a constant figure in many people's lives. The Queen has also been our Patron, a great supporter for Sea Cadets as well as a remodel for many people.

- **When is the funeral?**

The funeral is due to take place on Monday 19 September at Westminster Abbey at 11am.

- **Why do we raise our Sea Cadets Ensign (flags) at half-mast?**

We raise the Sea Cadets Ensign and then lower to half-mast as a symbol of respect for the Queen's passing as well as for the Royal Family during the period of mourning.

- **Can we as Sea Cadets wear black mourning bands?**

Black mourning bands are to be worn by all commissioned officers only in all parade orders of dress. (NB: They are worn on the left sleeve, positioned and pinned so that the base of the band lies two inches above the elbow).

- **Can we send a letter of condolence from our unit?**

No. A letter of condolence on behalf of the charity has been sent to The King, (which can be found [here](#)) with additional letters to other members of the Royal Family. Units are not duplicate with their own letters.

- **Can we post a note of condolence on our unit social media?**

Units are invited to repost or share the charity's letter of condolence. We have prepared artwork for all units to use across your own channels, together with a consistent and unified message.

[Wide social media image](#)

[Square social media image](#)

- **What do I do if I receive media enquiries?**

Please do not make any media comments on behalf of Sea Cadets without prior consent from the MSSC Communications Team.

As the Queen was the Patron for Sea Cadets we expect media interest in Sea Cadets stories of the Queen. If you receive any national or local media enquiries in the UK, contact our Communications Team: Director of Fundraising and Communications, Daniel McAllister, at [dmcallister@ms-sc.org](mailto:dmcallister@ms-sc.org) or Senior Press Officer, Michelle Pellegrino, at [mpellegrino@ms-sc.org](mailto:mpellegrino@ms-sc.org) (07557941892).

- **Is there any guidance for talking to our cadets about the death of HM The Queen?**

Yes, we have prepared a session plan and guidance called 'Remembering our patron – Queen Elizabeth II' to help you to discuss the passing of our Patron – Queen Elizabeth II with your cadets - commemorating her life and achievements, as our Patron and our monarch. It contains useful tips on a change to the colours routine during National Mourning, discussion topics, some poems to use as part of a time of reflection, together with some related activities, styled for different age groups. There are also some helpful links to support and guidance on grief and loss. You can find this on the Members Area homepage (T&A).

- **Is my unit allowed to parade on the evening of Monday 19 September 2022?**

Yes – normal Sea Cadets parade nights are allowed to continue during the National Mourning period. However, as this date is now a bank holiday, individual unit COs / OiCs may make alternative arrangements, if deemed appropriate.

- **Where can my unit send a wreath?**

Each unit can lay wreaths at local civic commemoration services. Units are not to send a wreath to the State Funeral. MSSC will send a wreath to the State Funeral on behalf of all connected with the national charity.

- **Where can I send my condolence message for my unit?**

Please send your message of condolence using the form on the Royal website [here](#) or making use of official books in your local town / city hall.

- **Has the Sea Cadets Promise been updated?**

The trustees of the charity have approved a change to the Sea Cadets promise to reflect the accession of King Charles III to the throne. The two versions of the new promise, set out below, are for use from the ending of National Mourning at midnight on Monday 19 September 2022. We will now begin the work to update all related content:

**General:**

“I promise to serve my God, The King, my country and the Sea Cadet Corps and to obey the orders of my superior officers.

I will be proud of my uniform, be smart and seaman like in wearing it and always do my duty.”

**Royal Marines Cadets:**

“I promise to serve my God, The King, my country and the Sea Cadet Corps and to obey the orders of my superior officers.

I will always do my duty, be proud of my uniform and wear it like a Royal Marine.”