

Slough Holiday Activities and Food Programme Annual Report April 2024-March 2025



Slough
Holiday Activities
and Food Programme

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Slough
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What is the HAF programme?

Slough Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities, in the Easter, summer and Winter school holidays, for school-aged children in reception to year 11 inclusive, who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM).

In 2021, the government announced a three-year funding settlement for the HAF programme to March 2025, which follows the national rollout of the programme across England in 2021.

School holidays can be particular pressure points for some families because of increased costs (such as food, childcare and energy bills).

This can lead to a holiday experience gap - with children from disadvantaged families less likely to access organised out-of-school activities.

HAF programme was set up to bridge this gap.

Aims of the Programme

There are many benefits for children who attend the HAF programme. We encourage all our HAF settings to ensure a high-quality experience that will result in children:

- receiving healthy and nutritious meals
- maintaining a healthy level of physical activity
- being happy, having fun and meeting new friends
- developing a greater understanding of food, nutrition and other health-related issues
- taking part in fun and engaging activities that support their development
- feeling safe and secure
- getting access to the right support services
- returning to school feeling engaged and ready to learn

The HAF Programme in Slough

HAF activity places are made available to school-aged children in Slough in reception to year 11 inclusive who receive benefits-related FSM In March 2025, there were approximately 6000 children and young people eligible for FSM in Slough.

The Slough HAF programme is a collaborative approach with the local HAF team working alongside key partners such as schools, Slough Children Services, Health and voluntary community organisations to deliver enriching activities for children and young people.

We have continued to build on our success with each holiday period and are excited to show the great work Slough's HAF clubs have achieved for children and young people.

Slough HAF Clubs

Slough HAF operated across 22 provisions, offering a diverse range of activities including, but not limited to, arts and crafts, circus skills, fencing, gymnastics, ICT and gaming, theatre, cooking, swimming, music, and multi-sports.

HAF provisions were delivered throughout Slough, with a particular focus on areas identified as “hot spots” of need. In line with Slough’s commissioning process, provider applications were assessed by an independent panel. Decisions were based on several criteria, including the nature of activities offered, alignment with HAF priorities, cost-effectiveness, location, and the target audience

Community
Detached Salt
Hill

Darul Madina

Slough HAF Clubs

Antz Kidz

Little
Musketees

Chalvey Grove
Children Centre

Riverside/Swip
e

Tiny Turtles

Art Classes

Premier
Education

Full court
Basketball

Together As
One

Sports
Collective

Leo Circus

Slough Music

Get Active

Sports Inc

U Sports

Kidz Enterprise

360

Jam Coding

Superstar
Sports

In 2 Sports

How we delivered

HAF programme is underpinned by robust monitoring to ensure delivery is of the highest standard. All providers must meet minimum operating requirements aligned to an agreed framework.

This framework focuses on:

- Food Provision
- Enriching Activities
- Physical Activity
- Safeguarding
- Signposting to universal services

Food Provision

All HAF providers are required to offer at least one meal per day, breakfast, lunch, or an evening meal. All food, including snacks, must comply with the School Food Standards. Slough Borough Council's Food and Safety Team conducts visits to all settings to ensure compliance.

Every provider must be registered as a food server. For HAF clubs without on-site food preparation facilities, Slough Borough Council works with trusted catering providers to ensure meal delivery. These meals are transported to clubs by Slough Transport Services. The two central catering partners currently supporting the programme are Haywood Catering and Dresgef Food.

Dietary requirements and allergy information are collected during the booking process. Halal and vegetarian options are always available. Clubs are strongly encouraged to involve children in the food preparation process, helping them develop new skills and build an understanding of healthy eating and nutrition. In addition, HAF providers actively teach children about nutrition and signpost them to reliable information and resources that promote healthy food choices and lifestyles.

Physical Activity

Slough offers a **diverse range of HAF clubs**, including **multi-sports**, **swimming**, and **circus-based** activities, catering to a wide variety of interests and abilities. All holiday clubs are required to deliver daily physical activity in line with national guidelines.

In accordance with these **physical activity guidelines**, we expect:

- **All children and young people** attending the HAF programme to engage in **moderate-to-vigorous physical activity for an average of at least 60 minutes per day**.
- Activities should include a **variety of types and intensities** to support the development of **movement skills, muscular fitness, and bone strength**.
- Children and young people should **minimise sedentary time** and, where physically possible, **break up long periods of inactivity** with at least light physical movement.
- These activities are delivered in a fun, inclusive, and engaging way, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to enjoy being active, develop new skills, and build confidence.

Safeguarding

All HAF clubs operate within rigorous safeguarding procedures, including:

Comprehensive safer-recruitment practices

Staff and volunteers undergo full **DBS checks** and follow structured recruitment protocols to verify and vet everyone involved. Ongoing supervision and regular **refresh training** ensure that safeguarding knowledge is maintained and updated across all levels of staffing.

Clear organisational structure and reporting pathways

Each HAF club has well-defined staff roles and responsibilities regarding safeguarding. Clear reporting protocols ensure that concerns or incidents are promptly escalated to the HAF team.

Embedded into quality assurance and oversight

Safeguarding processes are verified during **joint monitoring visits** from Slough Borough Council's HAF team ensuring that clubs follow best practices, receive support, and maintain inclusive, child-centred standards.

Support & Signposting to Universal Services

Active family signposting

HAF clubs proactively guide families toward local universal services including health, nutritional support, and wider social support networks. This may include referrals to foodbank, nutrition education programs, housing support, and mental health resources

Regular educational outings & excursions

Clubs organise engaging, experiential visits to diverse settings: museums, historical sites, cultural venues, sports centres, and interactive learning spaces. These outings are designed to:

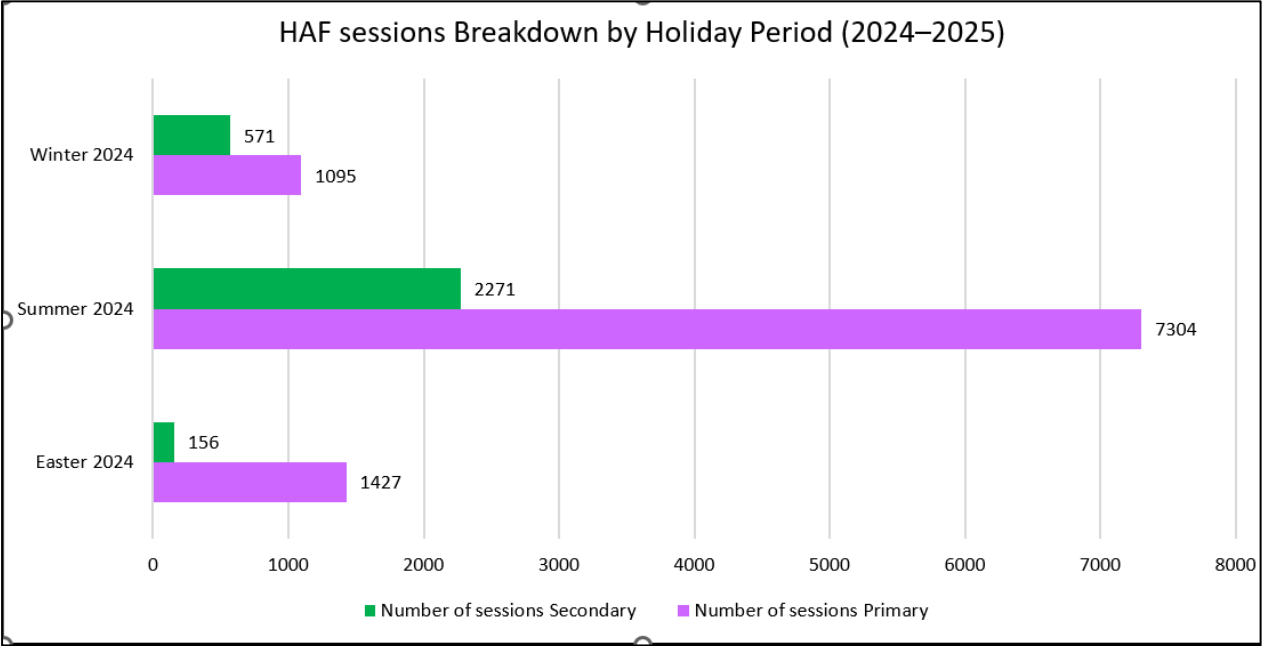
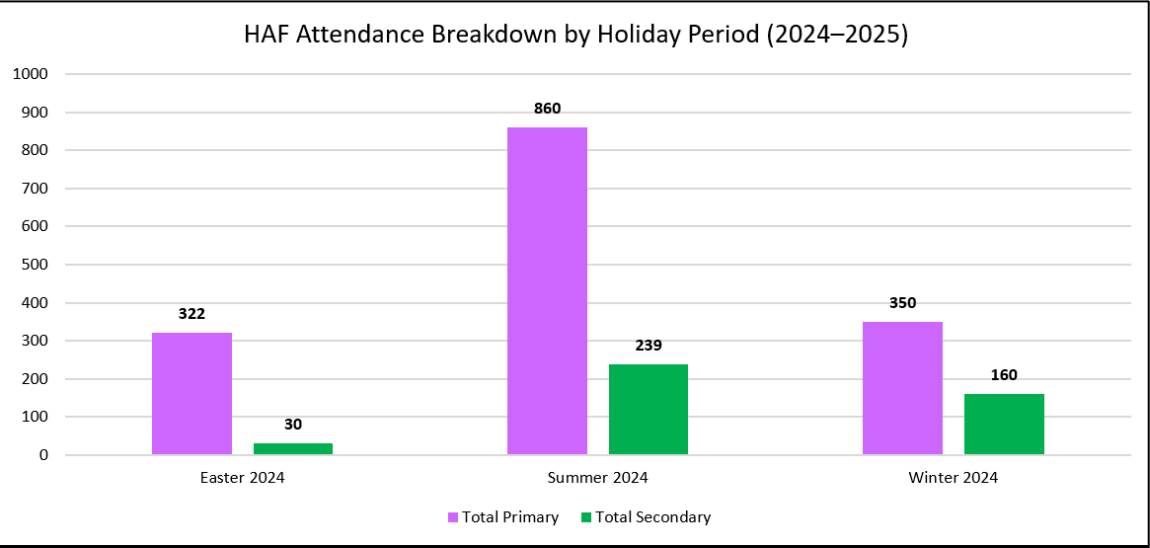
- Spark curiosity and broaden horizons
- Provide age-appropriate physical challenges
- Support social interaction and team-building

Readiness for all children

Outings are carefully planned with inclusive accessibility in mind, ensuring children with diverse needs, including those with SEND, can fully participate and benefit

Headline Achievements

HAF programme attendance increased from Easter to Summer. Figures subsequently fell in Winter due to the dates when the holidays landed.



SEND Engagement and Participation

Slough Borough Council is committed to removing barriers to participation and ensuring all children, including those with SEND, feel welcome and supported in HAF programmes.

Key Initiatives to Increase Participation:

- **Multi-Agency SEN Engagement Group**
Co-designing inclusive HAF practices with Early Years SEND, voluntary sector, and provider reps.
- **Safety & Engagement Plan (SEP)**
Individualised plans to reduce triggers and support positive experiences.
- **Structured SEND Support**
Funding access for 1:1 staffing, sensory equipment, and reasonable adjustments.
- **SEND Toolkit**
Practical guidance for inclusive adaptations shared with all providers.
- **Specialist Training**
Sessions on sensory needs, behaviour, and engagement – co-developed with the SEND Youth Forum.
- **Quality Assurance**
Joint monitoring visits with SEND Team to ensure inclusive standards and offer live support.
- **On-Demand Staffing Pool**
Register of trained 1:1 support staff available to providers when needed.

Marketing

Communication and promotion of the HAF programme are carried out through Slough Borough Council and partner channels, including various network groups.

A communication plan is developed collaboratively by the Council's Communications Team and the HAF team to ensure consistency in messaging and thematic alignment.

The plan includes targeted social media posts and outreach events aimed at engaging families and raising awareness of the programme. In 2024, we introduced the use of tweet cards as part of our digital campaign. These feature campaign messaging such as: *"Would you rather your children spend time indoors on their devices, or take part in enriching, engaging activities?"*



Governance

A multi-agency steering group oversees the implementation of the HAF programme throughout the year. This includes responsibilities such as commissioning, monitoring, quality assurance, eligibility, marketing, and reporting.

The group ensures that delivery of the HAF programme aligns with the Department for Education (DfE) guidance, particularly in relation to eligibility criteria, the provision of enriching activities, and access to healthy meals.

It also supports a collaborative approach to marketing through partnership input and shared communication channels. Slough HAF is currently reviewing the membership of the steering group to ensure it reflects the evolving needs and priorities of the programme.

Budget and Expenditure

Slough Borough Council received grant funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food programme in Slough.

This grant funding is calculated based on the numbers of children eligible for and in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) in Slough.

Expenditure Type	(£)
Administrative Expenditure (this should include all of the costs you have incurred in carrying out the administrative functions of the HAF coordination in your LA)	54,301.02
Capital Expenditure (this should include any equipment purchased to support the programme that meets the definition for capital expenditure, as set out in the HAF guidance on gov.uk)	0
Programme Expenditure (this should include all of the costs of providing free HAF places, including payments to providers and third parties for services provided)	528,327.11
Other Expenditure Bookings website £6,495 Marketing £13,974.23 Transport £16,625.75	37,094.98
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025)	619,723.11
Paid for as follows:	(£)
Payment from DfE for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 (received April 2024)	640,050
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (as stated above)	619,723.11
Under spend on Grant (if applicable)	20,326.89