

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD



***ANNUAL REPORT
2025/26***



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INTRODUCTION

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) provision in Warwickshire is for children who are in full time education from **Reception to Year 11 (inclusive)**, **who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM)**. The programme offers valuable support to families on lower incomes, giving young people the opportunity to access activities with a meal provision over the three main school holidays in **Easter, Summer and Christmas**.

This year, additional guidance was released from the DfE allowing HAF programmes to use any remaining underspend in the February 2026 half term holiday.



OUR PROVIDERS

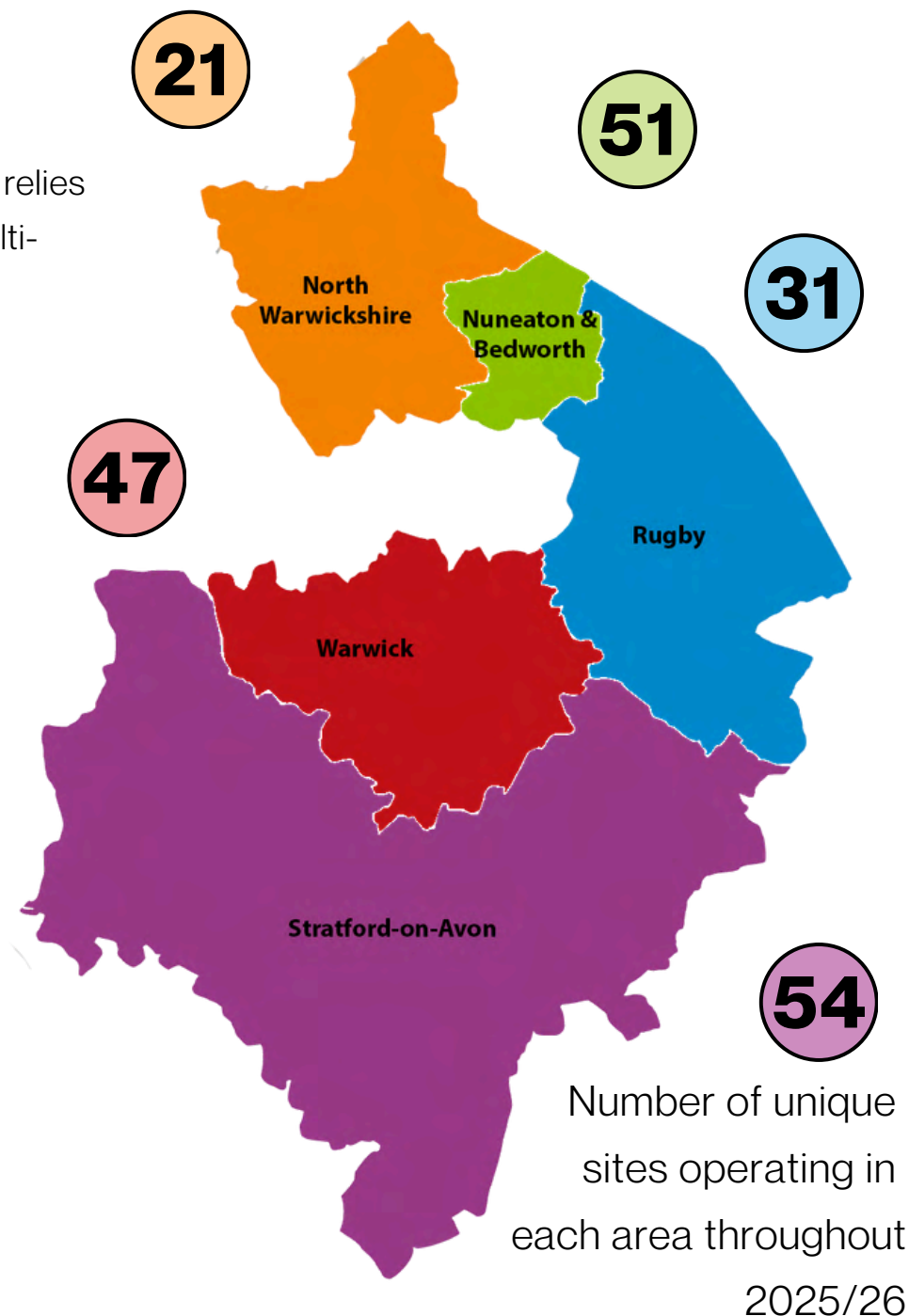
The **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)** provision in **Warwickshire** relies on a network of providers offering a wide variety of activities - from multi-sports, to horseriding, trampolining and boxing.



Number of sites operating in Warwickshire overall across Spring, Summer and Winter HAF 2025/26 delivery.



Watch the Warwickshire HAF video [here](#)!



Number of unique sites operating in each area throughout 2025/26

*Includes SEND Family Experiences

HEADLINES FROM 2025/26

Spring

Saturday 12th April - Sunday
27th April 2025

11,182

HAF spaces available

88%

Programme occupancy

9,816

HAF bookings made

4,034

Distinct young people
accessing HAF activities

94%

Overall attendance percentage



Summer

Monday 21st July - Friday 29th
August 2025

36,952

HAF spaces available

92.6%

Programme occupancy

34,252

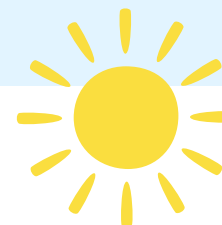
HAF bookings made

7,557

Distinct young people
accessing HAF activities

94.3%

Overall attendance percentage



Winter

Saturday 20th December 2025 -
Friday 2nd January 2026

4,794

HAF spaces available

84.2%

Programme occupancy

4,037

HAF bookings made

2,458

Distinct young people
accessing HAF activities

96.9%

Overall attendance percentage

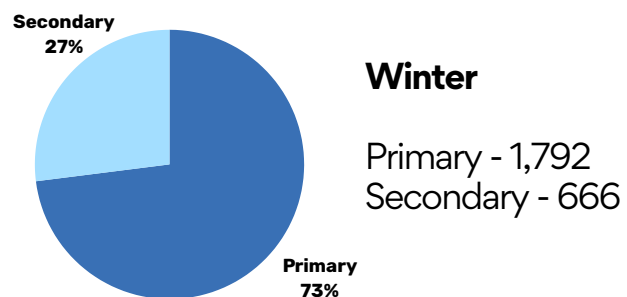
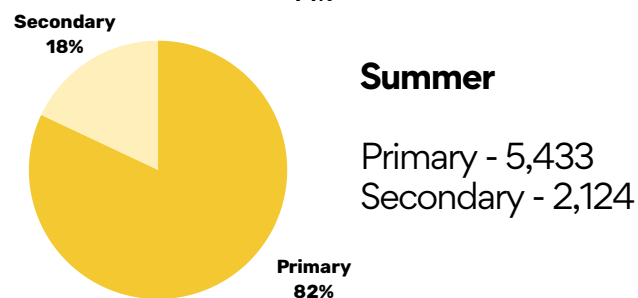
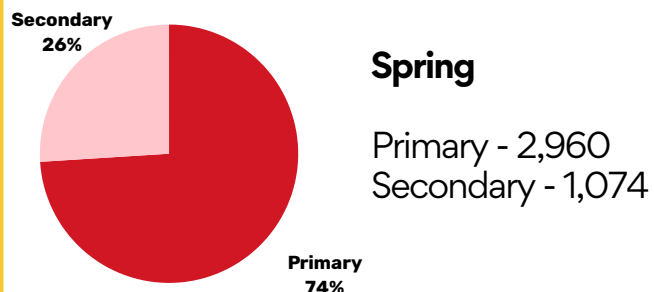


PROGRAMME ATTENDANCE

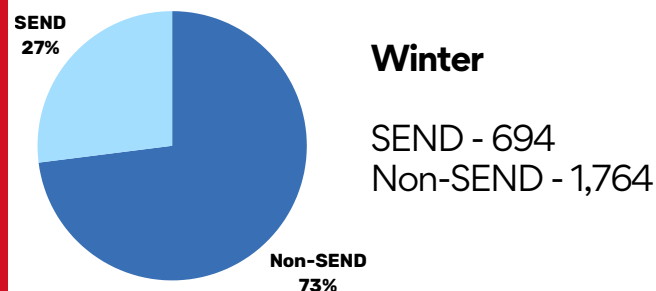
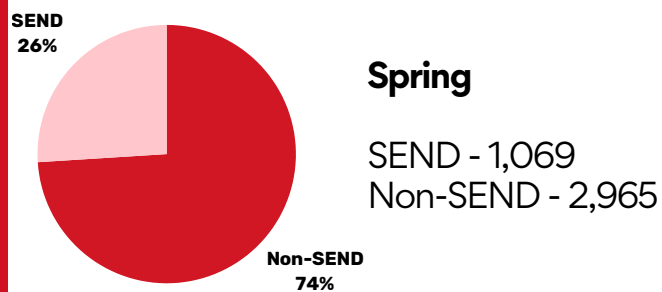
The statistics on this page relate to the 3 delivery periods over 2025/26 - **Spring (April 25), Summer (July - August 25) and Winter (December 25 - January 26).**

49,139

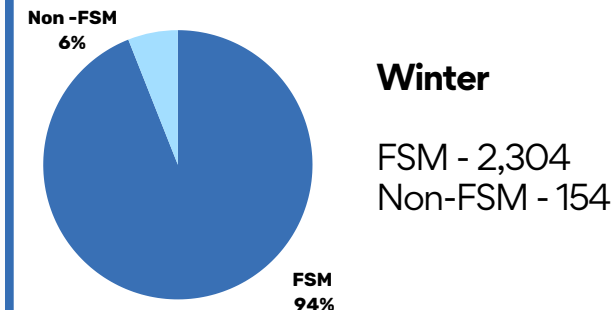
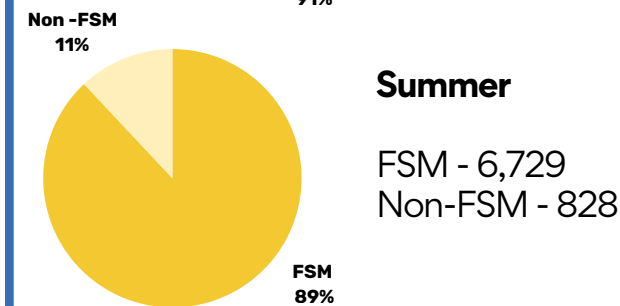
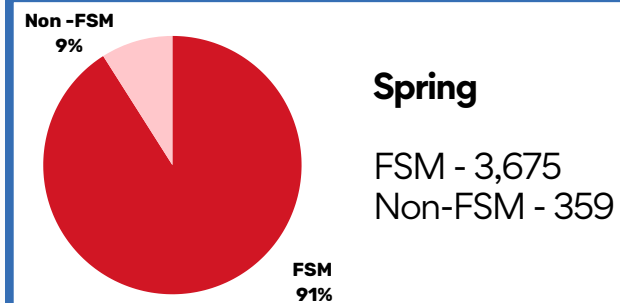
number of meals served at HAF sessions this year (includes community events)



Proportion and number of primary versus secondary age children who have participated this year



Proportion and number of SEND (self-described) versus non-SEND children who have participated this year



Proportion and number of FSM-eligible against non-FSM children who have participated this year

FEBRUARY 2026 HAF OFFER

Monday 16th February - Sunday 22nd February 2026

For February 2026, the DfE allowed Local Authorities to utilise any programme underspend following Winter HAF delivery to fund activities over the February half term holiday. As programme funding was limited, we confirmed small funding agreements with a number of youth groups, community centres, schools and volunteer organisations for targeted programmes for eligible young people.



HAF have been a life line for us as parents and we have really benefited from our child having a placement in HAF as he has quite complex needs, and being part time in school, it's giving us time as parents to reset.

Parent/Carer from South
Warwickshire

947

HAF spaces available

733

HAF bookings made

563

Distinct young people
accessing HAF activities

95.5%

Overall attendance
percentage

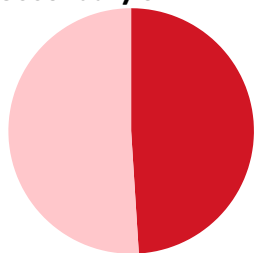
77.4%

Programme
occupancy

Sites Running
32

PROGRAMME ATTENDANCE

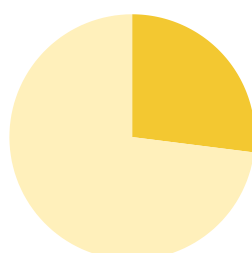
Secondary 51%



**Primary
49%**

Primary/Secondary
Primary - 345
Secondary - 355

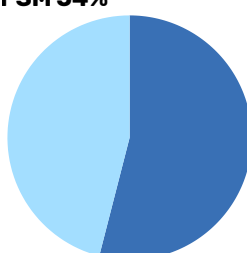
SEND 27%



**Non-SEND
73%**

SEND/non-SEND
SEND - 183
Non-SEND - 517

FSM 54%



**Non-FSM
46%**

FSM/non-FSM
FSM - 375
Non-FSM - 325

As this was the first time we had run activities in a school half term holiday, feedback and attendance was mixed following our small scale HAF delivery. Activities were offered on an invitational basis as a trial programme, with 32 funding agreements in place. This is compared to a normal HAF delivery of between 150-200 sites so we decided not to advertise listings as demand would far outweigh available places. Booked attendance was positive with 95.5% bookings, but only 77.4% of sessions were attended which was a lot lower than expected. Based on this trial, we will likely continue to offer a half term provision only if there is a programme underspend towards the end of the financial year.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the three delivery periods of 2025/26, the **Warwickshire HAF has continued to build and improve on our commitments.**

SEND

SEND is a rapidly growing area of need nationally. In 2024, 24% of Warwickshire HAF attendees had SEND needs, as identified by parents/carers or providers. In 2025, the proportion has risen to 27% - an overall increase of 3%. We recognise this growing percentage as a positive, reflecting that the HAF programme's inclusive policies mean that SEND parents/carers find the programme easy to access. To support this participation, we increased funding for 1:1 support, and we are offering an ever-increasing range of these experiences to families across Warwickshire with 5 new activities added in this year alone.

Attendance

HAF programme budgets can be heavily impacted by non-attendance. In order to provide high-quality provision with minimal non-attendance, we operate a 10% overbooking policy and continually ask providers to follow up with families who have not attended their session. We monitor bookings across Warwickshire and advise families when they have double- or over-booked, providing clarity and reducing impact on non-attendance. During our most recent HAF period, Winter 25-26, saw great success with overall attendance of booked activities at 96.9%.

Secondary Provision

The percentage of secondary-age participants involved in HAF activities made a slight gain from 26% in 2024 to 27% in 2025. To reach this demographic, we maintain relationships with community centres, youth hubs, and organisations such as Young Carers. We also partner with internal Warwickshire County Council teams including Youth Services and Libraries, and work closely with alternative provisions to fund targeted activities.

Geographical distribution

With stable provision available in the majority of urban areas, in 2025 we have specifically targeted particular areas of Warwickshire where providers have previously been unable to establish a foothold. We have liaised with established providers and schools in these priority areas, providing support around HAF registration for eligible students, and opening communication links with local HAF-eligible families. Schools remain our most popular site choice for providers - in 2025 there were 86 schools used as HAF venues in Warwickshire.

This is amazing to have to help and support parents and also for children to engaged with new friends and make new friends and to get them out the house.

Parent/Carer from Central Warwickshire



SEND

*I am so grateful for
this service,
without it, my boys
would have had a
very different
summer. Thank
you.*

Parent/Carer attending
SEND Family Experiences



We expect all Warwickshire HAF providers to be inclusive. Providers liaise directly with families to ensure needs can be met within the limitations of their site. All providers are able to apply for additional funding for 1:1 support for participants with SEND needs.

Amongst our listed provisions we also include sites that specialise in SEND bookings. We allow for more flexible delivery options with these providers in order to meet their demographic's needs. There were **13** distinct providers offering SEND-specific activities over 2025/26.



Number of specialist,
SEND-specific
providers operating
overall across
Spring, Summer and
Winter HAF 2025/26

Our network of SEND-specific providers includes: Fitness by Bobby, Lucky Tails Alpaca Farm, Circles Network, SEN Shots Basketball, Aunty Jen Productions and Purple Spider Learning.

**This year, we approved £103,568 in additional
funding requests for 1-to-1 staffing.**

Spring £21,195

Summer £68,625

Winter 13,748

Where a provider attracts a higher number of SEND bookings, we adapt their funding agreement to account for a number of dedicated SEND spaces which then removes the need for an additional funding request.

SEND FAMILY EXPERIENCES

Our SEND Family Experiences have continued to grow since first being offered in 2023. All young people in full time education from reception to Year 11 with a current Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) who are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals are eligible for our family offer. Within each delivery period, families can access a certain number of family activities which form part of their overall session allowance. The number of sessions fluctuates for each delivery period, which is based upon the demand within the programme. This operates in an equitable approach following an application form stating preference of activities, with each eligible family receiving the same number of sessions.



In 2024-25 we recorded 531 families for SEND Family Experiences. This apparent drop to 450 is due to improved recording of when multiple children in a family are eligible. Some participating families who submitted requests had more than one child with an EHCP.

This has made the biggest difference to our family. Due to my son's needs and ever growing financial strain we have lacked the ability to spend time outside the home bonding and feeling care free. The work you all do is amazing and we couldn't be more grateful!

Parent/Carer from Warwickshire

Watch the video we filmed at one of our family experience locations - Stratford Butterfly Farm



Family Experiences offered this year include:

- Tenpin Bowling
- Ash End Farm
- British Motor Museum
- Stratford Experience Day
- Family Swim sessions
- Macready Theatre, Rugby
- Warwick Arts Centre
- Drayton Manor
- Red Kangaroo Trampoline Park
- Twycross Zoo

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION



Over the last year we have continued to strengthen our marketing and communication strategies, increasing the visibility of HAF to reach more families.

Our **website** was **visited approximately 19,000 times** over our major delivery periods in Spring, Summer and Winter 25/26.

This year we moved from producing activity brochures pre-delivery to integrating this information on our Google map, enabling families to quickly find activities in their area. Our full listings can also be found on our website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/HAF

We have produced publically available reports after the major delivery periods in Summer, Winter and Spring.

Warwickshire HAF's Facebook presence is managed through the FIS Facebook. This year, our posts have been viewed **62,490 times on Facebook** throughout our three major delivery periods.

We work closely with Warwickshire's Family Information Service (FIS) who signpost families to HAF. We also release information to professionals such as headteachers and social workers to encourage the use of our referral system. Our regular newsletters have a reach of over 10,000 families and professionals.



The fact that food is available for our children is superb. Communication is excellent from all parties - It all works extremely well.

Parent/Carer from Rugby Borough



Monthly FIS (Family Information Service) webinars are attended by a member of the HAF team, who provides information on Warwickshire HAF to council staff, education and social care professionals, and members of the public.

PROGRAMME COORDINATION



A huge thanks as the HAF programme helps to keep my children active and off devices. This is super important for their mental wellbeing and helps them to build social skills with others.

Parent/Carer from South
Warwickshire

Programme expenditure

For the 2025/26 financial year, funding of **£1,886,875.20** was allocated to Warwickshire County Council by the Department of Education to delivery the Holiday Activities & Food programme. The total programme expenditure for 2025/26 was **£1,882,398.90**, meaning 99.97% of our budget was spent. This includes the proportion of programme funding allocated to programme administration, resources, and staffing costs. This value was **£116,309.69** within the overall programme spend. All other costs were made to approved activity providers to offer funded HAF placements within our key delivery periods.

HAF Programme team

Within Warwickshire, we have a team of 2 full-time programme coordinators and one team manager contracted on a 0.5 basis for HAF. Roles are split to cover the different geographic areas of Warwickshire. The HAF team are part of Warwickshire's Family Information Service (FIS) and work alongside the team in assisting with any telephone calls or emails received with queries on the programme.

Non-FSM

Up to 15% of funding can be allocated to young people who are not in receipt of benefits-related FSM, but are still facing a significant financial barrier. In Warwickshire, referral HAF codes are issued on a professional basis where there is a financial barrier to families and where the young person meets at least one of the below criteria:

- Allocated Family Support or Social Worker.
- Open Early Help Plan.
- Acts as a Young Carer.

Approximately **30%** of referrals accessing the programme in 25/26 by the above criteria also had associated SEND needs.

In addition to non-FSM referrals, we also allocate funding for organisations and schools on a closed-provision basis to provide targeted activities for young people.

FUTURE PLANS

Over the next 12 months we will be addressing the impact of the upcoming changes to FSM eligibility upon HAF provision. With the implementation of Targeted and Expanded FSM, our focus is on consistent messaging around eligibility for families. Currently, Warwickshire families can apply for HAF codes through our online form, however we intend to integrate the new ECE checker into our processes and assess the potential to disseminate HAF codes to all children/young people coming under Targeted FSM.

The end of protected status for all families currently in receipt of benefits-related FSM presents an additional challenge, and we intend to overhaul our codes system to reflect annually-assessed eligibility.

Warwickshire is also reviewing the process of the 15% funding allocation for Local Authorities for young people not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. The previous professional referral process will likely be updated for our new funding agreement until 2029.

Ongoing co-ordination with WCC teams and borough councils will continue, increasing HAF visibility and links to changes within Free School Meal eligibility.

In Warwickshire, HAF social media posts are currently shared on the FIS Facebook. We intend to produce graphics packages for our partners that can be shared on their own social media channels. We also intend to refresh our website to coincide with the changes coming in due to FSM in September.

We intend to continue to grow and maintain our SEND offer, focussing on selectively adding to our SEND Family Experiences as well as investigating opportunities to improve 1:1 provision with deployment of staff where possible.

With additional support available in 2026/27 through the LA Capacity Funding, this will help align the HAF programme with School-Age childcare activities and the further rollout of Free Breakfast Clubs across the Country. The alignment of these programmes will help local authority staff with manage elements of all the programmes and provide greater support to schools/organisations where all programmes can be discussed in addition to Free School Meal changes from September 2026.

**Goals for
Spring,
Summer &
Winter HAF
2025/26**

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www.warwickshire.gov.uk/haf



@WarwickshireFIS



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