



Kirklees School's Out!

Funded by the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food programme.

Annual report 2025 - 2026

What is HAF / School's Out!

School's Out! is the name for the activities delivered in Kirklees that are funded by the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food programme. The funding is in place to support families that are eligible for Benefits Related Free School Meals during the Easter, Summer and Winter school holiday periods.

In Kirklees we work with community-based organisations to deliver the support in venues that are close to where eligible families live.

All activities are free of charge for eligible children and young people.

Healthy nutritious food

A key expectation is that children and young people attending funded provision have a healthy and nutritious meal. We work closely with the Kirklees Food Safety team to monitor menus at each activity, and we encourage creative ways to ensure there is a healthy choice.

Kirklees Food Safety team also support with inspections of venues and suppliers to ensure that good hygiene standards are in place.

Enrichment activities

Each session lasts a minimum of four hours and for every session we offer the child / young person the opportunity to engage with physical and creative opportunities. There is an emphasis on free-play, meaning that the activities are freely chosen. Examples of activities delivered include:

- Sports and games
- Arts and crafts
- Den building
- Co-operative games
- Dance and movement
- Boxing and fitness
- Irish dance
- Cooking
- Environmental play

Venues and settings

Sessions are delivered in a wide range of accessible settings throughout Kirklees. We prioritise provision to be delivered in areas that have high numbers of eligible families in residence. Sessions are delivered in:

- Schools
- Out of school clubs and childcare settings
- Adventure playground

- Parks and open spaces
- Community centres
- Town centre venues

Inclusive provision

As well as supporting families that are eligible for Benefits Related Free School Meals we also strongly encourage provision to be accessible for children with additional support needs. We enable this by working with organisations to ensure open access for all children, and by funding specific activities just for SEND children and young people. We also work closely with the Council's Short Breaks offer to enhance the offer in place.

Supporting families

Every session offers the opportunity to support families beyond the funded activity. This includes supporting access to provision delivered outside of the school holidays, signposting to local support services, and also helping with advice and guidance related to support with the Cost of Living.

Funding

Kirklees Council received £1,791,160 from the Department for Education to support eligible children. £1,602,044 of this funding was allocated to community based providers to deliver the programme. Kirklees also benefited from support from The Bread and Butter Thing to offer funded places at some sessions for non-eligible children and young people.

Numbers engaging in 2025 / 2026 – School's Out! Funded places only

Easter 2025

Total number of individual children and young people attending –	2549
Total number of individual attendees that were SEND –	359
Total number of meals provided during Easter school holidays –	8533

Total number of individual children and young people attending –	4709
Total number of individual attendees that were SEND –	496
Total number of meals provided during Summer school holidays –	39782

Winter 2025

Total number of individual children and young people attending –	2092
Total number of individual attendees that were SEND –	344
Total number of meals provided during December school holidays –	3551

Total number of meals provided during 2025 offer –	51866
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Feedback from children and parents/carers

Following each school holiday we carried out consultation with parents and carers to determine their views on the quality of provision offered and also to ask what difference have we made in delivering the programme.

Parents and carers are asked to rate the following out of 10. (1 being low/poor 10 being high/excellent)

396 responses of which 153 SEND

Did your child enjoy the activities delivered? –	9.6 out of 10
Quality of the venue? –	9.4 out of 10
Quality of the food provided? –	9.3 out of 10

Here are some of the responses to '**What difference have we made?**'

My children have been able to access this fantastic club over the last few years, that without the funding would have been completely out of reach. Sean and Sarah do a brilliant job of encouraging children in their art and enabling them through resources and guidance to create some amazingly ambitious projects. They have created such a warm, friendly, creative, fun space for children and young people to enjoy in the holidays.

You have helped us by providing activities which we could not afford. It also helps just getting some space for ourselves as well. It's also important to know that they are in a safe space and we can our child in place where he feels happy.

My daughter struggles meeting children and engaging in activities but here she gets the opportunity and does well.

My son really enjoyed the activities, especially the wheelchair basketball. He struggles with his feet turning inwards and is awaiting referral back to physio so this is a very inclusive way for him to join in and have fun and not be worried about limitations or pain.

Such a positive difference, my son has a range of health complications. Staff are extremely inclusive. My son is supported to be his best self for who he is, not what conditions he has. When he was struggling with his anxiety, he was supported and celebrated with his social skills to boost his confidence.

It sounds silly to say that the club is a lifeline but it really is. I'm not sure who can afford to pay £20-£30 daily for childcare but I certainly can't! The staff are friendly, welcoming and attentive and completely focussed on giving the children in their care their best! I am so grateful for the project.

Gives my daughter confidence makes friends social skills and gives her a break from brother as daughter is a young carer.

The Team at Central Stars are really good with my child, he really enjoys going there. John and all the staff are really good with him and it's nice for us to have a break from Caring in the 6 weeks holidays.

This is an amazing programme, my child isn't keen on sports but loves to dance. All involved have been kind and respectful to my daughter and myself which we truly appreciate. We hope to attend next year.

It has allowed her chance to make new friends, and explore nature as well as a bonus taking time off from technology.

My daughter has ADHD, learning difficulties and communication and interaction difficulties. This gives her routine, social interactions and life skills. It gives me chance to get home in order (which is huge) and takes away a lot of financial pressure to provide her with stimulating experiences. It really has been a huge help to us all.

My son is non-verbal autistic but he was very happy to attend each time and was given 1 to 1 support to help with his needs. Very grateful for a holiday club to accommodate a SEN child as it's very difficult to access an activity which takes on children with additional needs.

My child has attended holidays clubs and other clubs previously. However, he has refused to attend or they have created autistic burnout, dysregulation or created further anxiety leading to distress. This is the first club that my child has enjoyed and wants to attend, the staff are aware of SEN and he isn't pressured to undertake activities and is able to use the facilities required if having sensory issues.

The difference you have made has been immense. The children have benefited so much from the club. Having a chance to interact with other children, building relationships and taking part in activities and most importantly not being at home on their electronics and staying out of trouble.

Having a child with SEN it's hard to find good quality accessible activities to do, this was absolutely incredible & my daughter shone while performing.

My son can be quite fussy, but he ate most of the food and said he liked it.

Excellent food they provided a packed lunch for the trip lovely homemade kebab burger which my daughter liked. The food they provide is always freshly cooked they give lots of fruit too. They also make packs of fruit for us to take home.

If it was not for this holiday club, I would have nowhere to go. My daughter plays with other children, and I have made friends too. We don't have family here, so we look forward to coming.

My children came back happy and stimulated. They reported that they felt safe, and they enjoyed the activities that were planned. They spoke highly of the staff as well. It was very clear that staff work hard to foster good relations with the children.

Quality Assurance

We expect the offer for children and families to be of high quality and we work with a wide range of Kirklees based organisations to deliver the programme. Organisations are expected to be registered with the Council's Grant Access Point systems or with OFSTED. Both registration requirements offer greater assurance around the governance, skills and capability of the organisation.

Support networks are established prior to delivery, with additional support offered with skills and development where required. Additional resources are in place to look at enhancing the offer to broaden the range and choice of activities available.

Every organisation is visited during delivery periods with a quality assurance check carried out. This allows the opportunity to recognise and build on good practice, and to also look at enhanced support when required. We are supported by the Early Years team, who also carry out visits to OFSTED registered provision during school holiday periods and the rest of the year.

Looking forward to 2026 and beyond

We will continue to promote the programme on the newly created webpages for the offer – www.schoolsoutkirklees.co.uk The pages include information for parents & carers, providers and professionals regarding the support.

12-month awards. Organisations are allocated funding to cover the 12-month period. This will mean greater certainty for funded organisations regarding funding arrangements and will explore opportunities around promotion of the offer from holiday to holiday

Small grants awards. We will continue to offer organisations the opportunity to apply for funding prior to the Easter, Summer and Winter school holiday periods. This funding opportunity will focus on emerging organisations and on gaps in high need areas to ensure targeted support where it is required the most.

Additional funding. We will continue to look for funding to support activities delivered during school holidays not covered by the Holiday Activities and Food programme funding. These include February, May and October half term periods.

We will work closely with the Short Breaks funded provision to align the offer for SEND children and young people.

We will continue to make the case for HAF and the impact the support has had for families accessing the funded provision. We will work closely with neighbouring authorities in Leeds, Wakefield and Calderdale to share best practice.

Work has started on the implementation of a booking system for HAF activities. We will work closely with neighbouring authorities to learn from their experience to meet the requirements of the Department for Education. Commissioning and testing will be carried out before and during the summer with roll out expected during the Winter activities delivered in December 2026.

As part of the Government's Best Start initiative, we will work closely around the development of Family Hubs, Wraparound provision and Youth Matters to ensure that the HAF programme is embedded within the wider offer.

We would like to thank the following key stakeholders who have helped to support the Holiday Activities and Food programme –

Kirklees Youth Alliance
Kirklees Youth Development Partnership
Kirklees Early Years
Kirklees Food Safety Team
Kirklees Tackling Poverty Partnership
Kirklees Digital Inclusion Network
Kirklees Families Together
Kirklees Youth Service
Kirklees Museums
Kirklees Libraries
Our Voice Team

We would like to thank the following organisations for supporting our offer –

1st Steps nursery & Preschool
20 20 Foundation Trust
5 Sport CIC
ABC Childrens Day Nursery
Ark Church Huddersfield
Asima Varachhia
Batley Sporting Foundation
Boosters Out of School Club
Bramwell's Hope
Burton Out of School Club
Central Youth Club
Chickenley Community Centre
Child's Play Nursery
Childrens Art School
Conscious Youth CIC
Dance for Everyone CIC
DAYNA HARRISON
DAZL Dance & Health Charity
DEIGHTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB
Dewsbury Rangers FC
Dinky Daycare & Holiday Club Limited
Ducklings childcare
East Bierley Community Sports Association
Eden's Forest CIC
Elm Street Kidz Club Ltd
Empower Leaders of the future CIC
Fearless People
First Education Hub CIC
Fresh Futures (NCC)
Future Childcare Nursery
Globe Arts Education CIC
Goose Hill Private Day Nursery
Greenfields Childcare
Gummy Bears Nursery and Out of School Club
Hamond House Day Nursery (Battye Street)
Happy Feet Day Care Dalton
Happy Feet Day Care Birstall
HD5 Community Hub
Helen Ellis
Hillhouse Tutoring Centre
Hoots out of school Club
Howden Clough Community Centre
Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival
Huddersfield Giants Community Trust
Huddersfield Town Foundation
InPALS Out of School Club CIC
Katie heseltine
Kickstart project CIC
Kids Come First
Kirkdale Out of School Club
Kirklees College
Kixx Huddersfield
Kumon Y'all
Ladybirds Day Nursery
Laugh and Learn Day Nursery

Legacy Sport South Kirklees
Little Legends Out of School Club
Little Rainbows Day Nursery & Out of School Club
Little Stars
Local Services 2 You
Longwood Daycare Limited
Luck Lane Before and After School Club
Minnajey Mirfield Daycare Ltd
Moor Fun Wrap Round Club
MPSE Community Engagement LTD
Netherton Community Centre
New Direction Services
Nik niks.bizzy bees
Outlane out of school club
Pepper Royd Day Nursery
Pony Pals Equine Therapy
Portland House Nursery
Project Communities CIC
Provision in the Community
RABC Boxing club
Ravensthorpe Community Centre
Rise in Unity CIC
Robina kauser
Scisset Kids Club
Sensory Play
Sensoryworld cic
SHAPE Lindley
Shasta Hussain
Shaw Cross Club for Young People
Shepley Preschool and OOSC
Slaithwaite Afterschool Club
Sparks Skills
St Josephs Out of School Club / Outlane Out of School Club
Stay n Play
Stercap Nurseries Ltd / Nightingales Private Day Nursery
Storth House CIC
Street Wyze
team hanson
THE ART ROOM DENBY DALE CIC
The Branch
The Game Changerz
The Watershed
Thornhill community preschool
Thornton Lodge Action Group
Thornhill Trojans
Timestep
Training Cave Club Ltd
Trinity Children's Centre
Ultimate Sport Project CIC
Willow House Nursery
Woodley School & College
Yorkshire Community Development CIC
Yorkshire Wildlings CIC
Youth Matters Kirklees CIC
Zowie Phelan-Holland