



Kirklees School's Out!

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

Annual report 2024

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 FINE 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.

Numbers engaging in 2024 – School's Out! Funded places only

Easter 2024

Total number of individual children and young people attending –	2263
Total number of individual attendees that were SEND –	317
Total number of meals provided during Easter school holidays –	8889

Summer 2024

Total number of individual children and young people attending –	5410
Total number of individual attendees that were SEND –	853
Total number of meals provided during Summer school holidays –	40004

Winter 2024

Total number of individual children and young people attending –	2267
Total number of individual attendees that were SEND –	365
Total number of meals provided during December school holidays –	4889
Total number of meals provided during 2024 offer –	53782

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)

523 responses of which 182 SEND

Did your child enjoy the activities delivered? – 9.6 out of 10

Quality of the venue? – 9.5 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?'

C is really struggling with low self-esteem and confidence and is awaiting a neuro assessment...This has been a godsend for him, he gets chance to be active and socialise without the stress of school work, he's really enjoyed it.

It's helped her be more active and social, which has been great. Before, she would spend a lot of time on screens until we could go out, but now she gets to play with other children in a safe environment. This has also given me some much-needed quality time later in the day, as I can focus on my parental duties knowing she having fun and learning. The program has also helped financially. We wouldn't be able to afford these kinds of activities on our own, so it's been a huge help. Overall, it's gotten her up and ready in the morning, even on bad weather days, which is a big bonus and she has improved her relationships with local school friends!

Massive difference...my wife has terminal cancer and therefore requires a lot of care and help at times ...this camp has helped relieve a little bit of the stress and worry about looking after my wife and children at this holiday period and also appears to have helped T with his anxiety

N struggles with change and school holidays are hard for him to cope with this taking place at the school he attends was a bonus for him as he already knows the school and felt safe and calm in a familiar environment

We struggle to leave the house most days because of her anxiety, it was so nice to be able to attend and see her having so much fun!

My daughter loves coming to play with other children as she has no friends that live nearby. She also has a sister with severe complex communication and social needs so it's hard to go out everyday but this club allows my daughter to play everyday

It ensured that my child had a structured day, providing them with the certainty of meeting and building relationships with friends regardless of the weather. This opportunity was beyond our financial means, but it offered them physical activity and allowed me time to tend to household tasks without juggling multiple responsibilities.

I firmly believe that this experience has contributed to my child's confidence and overall well-being.

It alleviates the stress of managing multiple children and also a financial relief in terms of food and childcare especially in this time of cost of living crisis. Clare Hill Centre has a very nurturing environment which provides a very safe environment for children, so there is no worrying.

Our daughter has special educational needs but recently has been diagnosed with bone cancer and has missed out so much this last year on things she enjoys due to chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery, going back to activities that are offered has given her so much enjoyment. She is presently in a wheelchair and is having to learn how to adapt her life due to the bone cancer but has achieved so much in the days she has attended, doing archery, basketball, campfire building and arts and crafts, it is so nice to see her smile.

Words cannot convey how important this service for young people is. There should be so much more on offer of services like this. A place where young people can come together in a safe space. It is a space where they are nurtured and they have the opportunity to explore and develop their psychosocial skills...develop their self-awareness. It is brilliant...

As a child with severe dyslexia, M struggles to equitably access some events and activities with her peers due reading/comprehension requirement. The boost in self esteem and confidence which came from attending the 2 x days at The Watershed with Sky and Noah, and other SEN/dyslexic and varied background children was palpable. On a personal note, being to access these sessions allows respite from parenting/teaching an SEN child 121 the majority of the time, and allows access to different social groups outside of M's 'normal' schedule.

As a disabled single parent, it means so much to have such a quality club available during the holidays that provides a safe, enjoyable environment for my son to be free, grow in confidence and be occupied whilst learning. Thank you

My child has not had these experiences before and these sessions have given him the opportunity to be creative and experience musical instruments that he has talked about playing for some time. It has shown him that football and all the machismo that comes with that is not the only outlet for his energy. He is new to the area and this has started him on the road to build his confidence in the area and the local people as he settles in.

It has made a significant difference. We have been struggling to find a place that would accommodate our son due to his needs and Shape were very warm and welcoming. They were open to helping us and it has helped our son find a place where he is comfortable.

We have been using John's clubs for 4/5 years now. My daughter absolutely LOVES going. This is major for her as she has needs. We are forever grateful to John and his camps. These summer camps help my daughter's confidence and allow her the much needed fresh air and space to burn off her endless energy. Without Johns

camps, we would really struggle over the summer holidays. I cannot rate John and what he provides enough. His positive, get up and go, enthusiastic attitude is fantastic. John absolutely should get some kind of recognition for the amazing work he does. He really is a star.

I am ever so grateful for my young person having an outdoor activity to go to, to look forward to going somewhere with young people of similar age and ability. It got my young person out of bed, and as a family we had a break from each other which was great for all our mental health and wellbeing. When we came together, we enjoyed each others company more having had a break

This opportunity is extremely important to me as a single parent of two children. It provides the flexibility I need to balance work with my family responsibilities. Being able to work while managing my responsibilities at home is crucial for supporting my family and maintaining a stable environment for my children. This role not only helps me financially but also allows me to be present and actively involved in their lives, which is invaluable to me.

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.

Budget allocation

In Kirklees we were funded £1,869,720 for 2024/2025. £1,682,748 was allocated directly to organisations to deliver the programme with £186,972 allocated to offer support and co-ordination of the offer.

Looking forward to 2025 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.

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support in delivering the School's Out! offer

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