



Alan Moss Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 4SQ
Telephone: 01509 212021 Email: office@tais.leics.sch.uk
Website: www.tais.leics.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher: Ms J Beaumont

HAF eligibility 2026/27- A short guide for parents and carers

Looking for a funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) place from winter 2026?
Here's what you need to know.

What changed in September 2026?

From September 2026, Free School Meals (FSM) became available to children in all households receiving Universal Credit, regardless of income. However, receiving Free School Meals does not automatically mean your child qualifies for a funded HAF place.

HAF is still focused on Targeted Free School Meal criteria, not those on expanded FSM.

Can my child get a funded HAF place?

From September 2026, the existing HAF eligibility rules still apply:

Receiving Universal Credit with an annual household income of £7,400 or less?
Your child receives free schools meals and remains eligible for a funded HAF place.



If your annual household income is above £7,400: your child may receive Free School Meals but will not qualify for a funded HAF place under the standard criteria.



Unsure? Ask your local authority to confirm your child's eligibility.

Why does my child no longer qualify?

Some children who attended HAF before may now be ineligible, even if they still receive Free School Meals.

This is because Transitional protections, that were in place since 2018, ended after the 2025/26 school year. These protections allowed some children to keep Free School Meals and HAF eligibility even when their family's circumstances changed.

What other support is available?

If your child no longer qualifies for HAF, you can explore:

Paid holiday clubs: places may be available, including at clubs offering HAF-funded places.

Tax-Free Childcare: depending on your circumstances, this may help with childcare costs. <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

Local support: check your council website for other holiday activities, childcare and family support. <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk>





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Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to let you know about a change to the way information about the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is shared with eligible families. The HAF programme, funded by the Department for Education, provides free holiday activities and healthy meals for eligible children during the Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays.

To help ensure eligible families receive information about available activities and how to book them, the Local Authority has engaged Eequ, a booking and information management platform. Eequ may contact eligible families directly by email when booking opens for future HAF programmes.

The information used for this purpose is limited to that necessary to identify eligible children and contact their parent or carer. Further information about how Eequ processes personal data can be found in their privacy information for parents and carers:

<https://help.eequ.org/en/articles/744172-privacy-explainer-for-parents-and-carers-receiving-an-email-notification-about-the-haf-programme-from-eequ>

If you have any questions regarding the HAF programme, please contact the Local Authority directly.

If you would prefer that the school does not share your information with the Local Authority and Eequ for the purpose of administering the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, please let us know by emailing office@tais.leics.sch.uk by 2nd November 2026

Kind regards,

Mrs J Pullen
Office Manager

