



HAF – myth buster and questions answered

Question / myth	Answer!
Question: briefly, what is it all about?	The Holiday Activity and Food programme aims to provide healthy meals, enriching activities and social engagement for families who are eligible, over the three main school holidays. HAF is funded by the Department for Education and we are currently funded till the end of the year but are hoping for further funding after that. This is a country wide provision not just in Suffolk so lots of families are able to get it.
Question: who is eligible for funded spaces on Holiday Activity and Food programmes?	Eligibility for this is mainly those who are in receipt of benefit related/means tested Free School Meals but some of the budget is used to fund places for those assessed to be in need by local authority, young carer, looked after child, come from a low income households, on an education, health and care (EHC) plan and not in receipt of free school meals. You may need a professional referral form completed for your child if you fit one of these groups, you can request this and further information from HAFenquiries@suffolk.gov.uk .
Question: is it really Free?	If your child is eligible for means tested Free School Meals, Registered SEND, or if you are approved through the professional referral process then it is absolutely free to you. The



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	funding for these places comes from the Department for Education
Myth: "I need to wait for a HAF code in order to access my place"	We haven't used HAF codes for 18 months and the way to book is going onto Eequ (www.eequ.org/suffolkhaf). You can browse and book programmes there!
Question: Will my child be safe at the activity?	All of our providers have to meet our safeguarding standards and policies. We check them regularly and have lots of safety checks in place that they must all do each time your child is in attendance. Many activities are held at schools or other official venues, where safeguarding is an important part of their day.
Question: Can my Child's friend come too?	If they are eligible or have a professional referral they can, however if that is not the case many of our providers offer reduced cost places which can be paid for. This means that lots of the activities are accessible for all. Our providers work hard to make sure that all the children who attend are treated in the same way and that each has a wonderful time with us.
Question: I see lots of logos! Who does what?	The Department for Education provides the funding, Suffolk County Council coordinates the project across the whole county, East Suffolk Council works with providers and coordinates the offer in East Suffolk, Providers deliver programmes at different locations



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<p>Myth: “It’s just a particular type of activity and my child isn’t interested in it”</p>	<p>There are lots of types of activity on offer including sports, cooking, arts, adventure – have a look at www.eequ.org/suffolkhaf, browse what is on offer and book the programmes you like! They also run for different times e.g. some are only a few hours and some are all day. Some are even set out so that the whole family can join in!</p>
<p>Question: How does the booking process work?</p>	<p>Once you’ve picked the programme you like on Eequ, click Book and select the dates and times you would like to book. To do this, you will need to set up an Eequ account – this is quite quick to do. You will be asked when booking about your eligibility, fill in the questions and then submit it. Eligibility will then be checked by Suffolk County Council (using free school meal data). You may need to provide further information, you will be asked to email HAEnquiries@suffolk.gov.uk. Once your booking has been marked as eligible, this will go to the provider to approve or decline the booking.</p>
<p>Question: I’ve submitted a booking request on Eequ but the provider hasn’t responded yet</p>	<p>Providers will be busy in the lead-up to a holiday trying to make the experience the best it can be for young people so it may take a little time for them to come back. If you have not heard back within a week, perhaps contact them again, you can do this by going onto the listing and clicking the ‘CONTACT MENTOR’ button, which is next to the ‘BOOK’ button or email</p>



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	HAEnquiries@suffolk.gov.uk if still getting no reply.
Question: The programme my child really likes is fully booked – what do I do?	Some programmes may get booked very quickly. Some programmes will have a waiting list you can join so that you will be notified and can book a place when it becomes available. If that isn't an option, there are lots of programmes available so worth seeing if there is something else that your child may enjoy: www.eequ.org/suffolkhaf – sometimes this is a good opportunity to try something new and exciting!
Myth – “if my child does not like the food choice they will go without”	Each provider offers a choice of different food options they can choose from. They work with children which have dietary and religious requirements too so that every child should have something that they will enjoy and will work with you and your child to choose a healthy option which they will enjoy. You can tell them if you think your child has a potential issue with a type of food provided, however all our children are encouraged to try new and exciting healthy options. Healthy choices is key to all of our activities.
Question: I've booked a place but can't now make it – what do I do?	Please make the provider aware at the earliest opportunity. This increases the chance of another child taking up the place and reduces risk of the place and the meal being wasted

