

Do you work with low-income or vulnerable families?

Hertfordshire's
Holiday Activity Programme

HAPpy

Here's how to signpost them to **FREE HAPpy activities during the Summer Holiday**

What is the HAPpy: Holiday Activity Programme?

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) is a national scheme for school-age children who are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals (BR-FSM). In Hertfordshire, it is branded as the HAPpy: Holiday Activity Programme.

Funded by the Department for Education, the programme offers FREE holiday activity places to eligible children during the Spring (Easter), Summer, and Winter (Christmas) school holidays.

Each programme day is a minimum of 4 hours long and includes physical activity such as sport or dance, enrichment or creative time, and a daily meal. All camps are SEND-inclusive. SEND-specific camps are also available for those with more profound needs (session lengths may vary for SEND-specific camps).

Who is eligible?

- **Children and teens from Reception to Year 11 who attend school in Hertfordshire and get benefits-related free school meals can attend this fully funded provision.**
- **A limited number of places are also available on a referral basis for children who are experiencing vulnerability, for example:**
 - Those assessed as in need, at risk or vulnerable
 - Children living in areas of high deprivation or from low-income households
 - Looked-after or previously looked-after children
 - Children with an EHCP
 - Children with low attendance rates/ risk of exclusion
 - Children struggling with transition between different phases of school
 - Migrant refugees and asylum seekers
 - Young carers
- **Referral must be made by a professional or organisation on behalf of the child.**
 - Referral places are intended for those who do not have the means to afford equivalent provision. SEND will be considered as part of the referral evaluation but does not guarantee a funded space.



Key Info

Key dates timeline for summer 2026

- **1 June** – Booking information and links will be sent to parents from this date
- **25 June** – Bookings go live on this day
- **27 July to 28 August** – HAPpy Camps summer programme runs between these dates
- **Early booking is advised**, however, bookings can be made up to 28 August subject to availability.
- **Fully booked?** Use the waiting list and check back later as cancellation spaces may become available throughout delivery.

Accessing HAPpy

- **Parents and guardians of children receiving benefits-related free school meals (BR-FSM)** will receive a link and instructions via email from school and can book once bookings open.
- **If a child is eligible, but not yet registered for, BR-FSM** parents/guardians can apply via bit.ly/HertfordshireFSM
- **Professionals or organisations wishing to refer a child without automatic eligibility** to the programme should contact us by email via haf@herts.ac.uk. (A fuller guide and instructions to the referral process will be provided if required at that stage).



From 25 June 2026, bookings can be made at:
bit.ly/S26RBookHAPpy



HAPpy testimonials

"Can't wait to come back!", "Other children are nice and I felt happy.", "I learnt how to use new equipment." – children attending previous HAPpy Camps

"I've been struggling a lot lately, having this time for myself and them having something to do is amazing." – Mother of children awaiting SEND assessment

"R started quietly but is now full of energy and excited each morning to come in. As her confidence has grown, she has loved helping those around her, engaging with the activities and wanting to know what is next." – Happy Camp organiser



More about the HAPpy programme
bit.ly/S26RAboutHAPpy



Please signpost eligible families to this valuable programme

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