

Summer holiday activities and food (HAF) Programme - pupil eligibility and free school meals (FSM) applications

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Tower Hamlets Council will once again be working with local Voluntary and community sector (VCS) partners to deliver the HAF programme. The programme offers free school meals (FSM) eligible children access to fun activities and nutritious food during the school break.

Due to a tightening of the monitoring requirements from the Department for Education, which funds the programme, the local authority will only be able to offer funded places to residents who can prove their FSM-eligible status.

Families will be provided with letters containing a HAF code which will allow them to participate. Families who are FSM eligible but do not appear on council data will be able to provide a Statutory Free School Meals entitlement letter to evidence their eligibility.

Families who cannot evidence their eligibility will be signposted to schools to help apply for the programme or access a Statutory Free School Meals entitlement letter. We appreciate this may add additional workload to school staff, and as such wanted to provide advance warning of this signposting effort. The HAF team can be reached at HAF@towerhamlets.gov.uk if there is any internal support we can provide to mitigate this.

The programme will be advertised in early July and delivered from Saturday 22 July to Friday 1 September 2023.

We recommend that families who are not eligible for the programme apply for other council holiday programmes as part of the council's summer of fun.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at HAF@towerhamlets.gov.uk. Our team is here to provide any necessary support and guidance.