Is my child eligible for a free Essex ActivAte holiday club place?

The Department for Education have expanded Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility, enabling more families receiving Universal Credit to access free school meals, with two FSM categories: Targeted Free School Meals and Expanded Free School Meals.

The Department for Education's Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme will remain linked to Targeted FSM eligibility only, meaning not all children who receive FSM will automatically qualify for a free Essex ActivAte holiday club place.

This guide will help you understand whether your child may be eligible for a free Essex ActivAte holiday club place and what other support may be available to your family. If you're unsure, please speak to your child's school or contact us at haf@activeessex.org for support.

Does your child receive Free School Meals through your school?

YES

Do you receive Universal Credit?

NO/UNSURE

Please contact your child(s) school or use the gov.uk website to check your eligibility.

Click here to check.

YES

Is your household's annual earned income £7,400 or less?
(excluding benefits and tax credits)

YES

✓ **Targeted Free School Meals**

Your child can access:

- Free School Meals
- Essex ActivAte (HAF) free places during the school holidays

NO

✓ **Expanded Free School Meals**

Your child may still be eligible for Free School Meals and other support available through their school.

However, free Essex ActivAte holiday club places are currently only available to children who meet the Targeted Free School Meals eligibility criteria.

NO

Your family may still be able to access:

- Low-cost or paid holiday club places
- Family Hub support, advice and family services
- Activities, clubs and opportunities through the Find Your Active, Activity Finder
- Local community services and support
- Financial, wellbeing and family support

Discover more support here.

haf@activeessex.org

activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate