

Holiday Activity & Food Programme

ONE VOICE HOLIDAY CLUB



GET stuck **IN!**

1tv **one voice**
BLACKBURN



Backed by a nationwide investment of around £200 million, the HAF programme runs across all local authority areas during the school holidays, as well as Easter and Christmas. The local programme, which was launched locally in April 2021, is targeted at those who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

A total of 15 partners including charities and community groups have delivered the programme in Blackburn with Darwen including One Voice Blackburn. The Department of Education's HAF fund has provided activity and food to over 2,400 children and young people in 30 locations through the local authority children's centre network, Young People's Services (YPS), Seeds Adolescent support unit and Spring North. The provision has also included over 43,000 free nutritional meals being distributed across the borough.

The Venue

We have established a successful partnership with Blackburn College which means that our holiday club provisions are now held there. The college boasts endless classrooms, fantastic sports facilities, kitchen areas and swimming facilities. Blackburn College is situated in the town centre which means easy access for our young people and parents.

Holding club sessions at Blackburn College has enabled us to increase our activities offer as we have access to a number of well-maintained areas across the entire building.

The Marketing Team at Blackburn College has been phenomenal in the planning and executing of activities at the 1V Summer HAF. They have supported on all aspects from introducing new spaces, managing the building and ensuring everything is safe for use every day. They have also taken out time to support with many of the activities. We cannot thank them enough for their efforts.

One Voice Blackburn Summer HAF 2023 Report

Our Young People

We have seen a substantial increase in the number of families accessing our holiday club provision. Our registered members include 400 young people, a majority of which are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. We continue with splitting the young people in groups according to their age.

Overall, we had 15 different classes with approximately 30 children in each class. This tallies up to 450 children. So far, we have had up to 415 children attend this Summer Club on a daily basis. We had more girls sign up to this summer club, hence why we have 8 girls' groups and 7 boys' group with approximately 30 individuals in each group, daily.

15 classes were used this time around.

2 classes were used as sports hall

1 class was used as a swimming pool

12 classes were used for regular indoor activities

The figures are as follows:

4-6 year-old girls 53 (2 classes)

4-6 year-old boys 66 (2 classes)

7-9 year-old girls 85 (3 classes)

7-9 year-old boys 61 (2 classes)

10+ girls 72 (3 classes)

10+ boys 78 (3 classes)



Given the data our biggest group this time around was girls aged between 7-9 years. This has always been our most popular group! We have had to have 3 classes for this group of approximately 30 girls in each class.

Other popular groups have been the 10+ boys and girls, which is what we have seen in previous holiday clubs as well.

For 7-9-year-old boys, we have had 2 classes with approximately 30 children in each class. This took us by surprise, as usually this age group isn't as popular as the other. However, this time, the numbers have increased which is nice to see!

The 4-6 age group was less popular this time around, but the numbers for this age group have been consistent!

On average, we have had no more than approximately 415 children on a daily basis.

We were pleasantly surprised with the amount of diversity we have had in the young people attending our holiday club. We have young people from all different backgrounds and heritages which adds to the experience of the holiday club. There have been a number of friendships made which has encouraged previous attendees of the holiday club to become more aware and accepting of others around them. This has been great to witness.

Our Team

Throughout our experience of HAF we have learnt that a good team is the foundation of a successful provision. After establishing a team of versatile and experienced teachers, we have now developed a strong system at the One Voice Blackburn Holiday Club.

Our 2020 Vision is vital in supporting the qualified team and lead on many of the activities. After taking note from the way the teachers work, they too have developed a strong sense of maturity. Each teacher is assigned with two leads that support immensely with running each classroom.

Other elements of setting up, catering and managing the children as they arrive, and leave are completed by our 2020 vision. This adds to their skills and experience and supports them in becoming effective leaders in the future.



This year we provided volunteer opportunities for a number of ladies from Blackburn job centre. This has been great for their development and has increased their skills that they can use for future job opportunities.





Activities and Provisions

The activities at this year summer holiday club have been the best yet with unique and fun filled days of endless excitement. We wanted to do things differently and use external organisations to set up games and experiences for the young people at the holiday club to enjoy.

This year activities included swimming, arcade day, beauty day, inflatable day, digital day, splash camp and much more. Weekly swimming sessions were on offer for many of the groups. We also had a splash camp with equipment available including slides and obstacles to make the sessions as enjoyable as possible.

We had a baking day where all groups used the kitchen facilities at the college to make brownies and cupcakes. The older groups were entertained with a session of making mocktails where they decided on different flavours and learnt mocktail making techniques.

Beauty day was a hit amongst many of the young people as they felt pampered and relaxed. Digital day was very interesting for the older groups as they got to enhance their photography skills and get involved in a competition.

There is a strong focus on sports and physical activity at the holiday club. This is something all our groups enjoy getting involved in every day of the holiday club. We make it a priority to incorporate a sports session for every group daily so they can let off some steam and engage in activities that will keep them active and healthy. Some of the activities include football, dodgeball, parachute and street games, amongst many others.

Catering

A major aspect of the holiday club is the food we provide for the young people. We understand that it can be challenging for parents to provide well-balanced and nutritious meals for their children when they are at home for six weeks of the summer. Every child at the holiday club is provided with nutritious food, including a sandwich/wrap, variety of fruits, cereal bars, water, and juices.

We now understand the sandwich fillings that the young people enjoy the most. After getting feedback from both the young people and their parents our menu is catered towards their likes and dislikes. The bread used for the sandwiches is brown or granary.

All cereal bars and yogurts had the necessary amount of healthy nuts and sugar. All juices contained a minimum amount of sugar. We also catered thoroughly for those children who had allergies.

After the first week of the holiday club, many of the young people voiced that they didn't enjoy the taste of the sandwiches. We took this feedback on board and went back to the caterers 'Express Cuisine' to tell them to change up their flavours. They were happy to do so.

We catered for 400+ individuals per day for four days of the week.

Staff Experience

“The One Voice Blackburn holiday club was a huge success. The young people thoroughly enjoyed themselves and as the weeks progressed the entire operation ran a lot smoother.”
(Aliyah Rashid)

“Summer HAF 2023 has been absolutely amazing. The themed activities were unique and varied. From beauty to sports, there was something for everyone. The splash camp in particular was much anticipated and loved. The One Voice Blackburn Summer Holiday Club was engaging and fun for both staff and the children”
(Najiya Isap)

“The One Voice Blackburn Summer Holiday Club has been an incredible journey. Witnessing the children’s smiles and laughter as they engage in various activities has been truly heart-warming. The entire team’s dedication and passion for creating a nurturing environment has made every day enjoyable and memorable. I feel grateful to be part of this experience, and I am looking forward to the upcoming HAF programmes with One Voice Blackburn.” (Maariya Seedat)

“The Holiday Club has been a vibrant and engaging programme which has helped me develop a lot of my skills such as teamwork, leadership, confidence and engagement with young people. It has provided me with a lot of experience, and I am looking forward to seeing what the future provisions bring.”
(Nabil Rashid)

Parental Feedback

We have received endless amounts of feedback from both young people and parents. All the feedback that we receive is handed to the entire team so that they can plan and execute sessions accordingly.

“I’m very happy with sending my daughter to the One Voice Blackburn Summer Holiday Club. Every morning she runs out of bed to get there. I am sure it is a safe and happy place because my daughter is usually a little soft but she has developed a new found confidence.

Thank you so much for your hospitality.”
(Marta Kaczmarek)

“My child has enjoyed the holiday club so much. She has been coming home and telling me about all the activities she has been getting involved in. She is showing so much confidence and has made so many new friends. I’d like to thank the entire HAF team for making my child’s experience one to remember.”
(Fatima Nazagar)

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