

Out of school Clubs and Holiday Schemes

Solihull Family
Information Service

Breakfast or before-school clubs

Breakfast clubs provide breakfast and somewhere safe for children to go before school. Carers will take your child to school in time for registration or, if based at your child's school, will look after them until lessons start.

Holiday schemes or clubs

Holiday schemes or clubs offer a wide range of play activities during the school holidays. They can be based at schools or run in others places such as youth clubs, village halls or community centres.

After-school clubs

After school clubs provide a safe place for children aged 3-11 to play, relax and socialise. They can be based at schools or run in others places such as youth clubs, village halls or community centres. They can either be run by the school, or by private or voluntary organisations. Clubs that are not attached to schools will collect children from school at the end of the day.

How are they registered?

Out of school clubs and holiday schemes must be registered with OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education) if care is provided for more than two hours in any day, for more than five days a year. Ofsted will check that the club meets the standards for health and safety, equipment, care, learning and play.

Following registration, OFSTED will inspect the out of school club or holiday scheme every three years. Inspection reports are available to parents on the OFSTED website www.ofsted.gov.uk

How are they staffed?

Any person in charge of children under the age of eight must have a minimum of a level 3 qualification and two years' experience relevant to the post. A deputy must hold a level 3 in Childcare and Education. At least half of the remaining staff must hold a level 2 qualification.

There must be at least one member of staff to every eight children aged between 3 and 8 years.

What are the opening hours?

Most out of school clubs are open 8am-9am and 3.15pm- 6pm. Holiday schemes usually run 8am-6pm during school holidays but you will need to check actual opening times with individual schemes.

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Call: 0800 389 8667

Email: familyinfo@solihull.gov.uk

Web: www.solihull.gov.uk/familyinfo



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How much will it cost?

Most out of school clubs will charge per session as they are only open for up to three hours at a time. Holiday schemes may charge an hourly rate, a full day or a weekly rate. It is best to contact the out of school clubs/holiday schemes for their up to date charges. Remember to check what is included in the overall cost and agree this before signing a contract.

What if my child has an accident or falls ill?

If your child has an accident at the club, you must ask to sign their accident/incident book. All clubs must have a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious, which is discussed with parents.

How do I choose a holiday scheme or out of school club?

Choosing the right place for you and your child is a big decision and it is important that you visit as many as possible in order to make the right decision. The following notes are designed to help you to do this. It is a good idea to ask to see the club's registration certificate as specific conditions of registration may vary. OFSTED state that the registration certificate should be displayed at all times.

Questions to ask

- What hours is the club open?
- What are the charges and what is included in the price?
- What are the procedures around sickness and holidays, including charges?
- How many members of staff are there and are they suitably qualified and experienced?
- How do they encourage positive behaviour?
- How will you be kept informed of your child's progress?
- Is there a settling in period available for your child?

Things to look for:

- Are you and your child welcomed into the setting?
- Are the other children happy, confident and having fun?
- Is the environment clean, comfortable and child friendly?
- Do the staff appear to have a good, positive relationship with the children?
- Are the staff observant and quick to respond to the children's needs?
- Are there plenty of books, toys, activities and play equipment available?
- Is there plenty of space to move about, both inside and outside?

Remember, you know what is best for your child. Ask questions and find out as much as you can on a visit and then follow your feelings!

Would you like to know what's happening in Solihull for children and families? Then join our Parent's Network for regular information at www.solihull.gov.uk/parentsnetwork

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