

School Age Childcare Strategy [SACC] Solihull 2026 to 2028

1. Vision

To ensure school-aged children (typically 4–18) have access to **high-quality, affordable, inclusive, and flexible childcare** that supports their wellbeing, development, and a families' ability to work.

Links to wrap around (WA), free breakfast clubs (FBC), holiday care and holiday activities and food (HAF).

The SACC Team consists of leads for these areas:

- SACC lead – Lisa Morris (co-ordinator role) LM
- HAF- Emma McKay EM
- FBC- Gehan Raslan GR
- Family Information Service (FIS)- Rosie Ratcliffe RR
- School Place Planning- Ann Pearson AP

2. Strategic Objectives

Accessibility

- Sufficient childcare places across all communities
- Provision before school, after school, and during holidays
- Reduce geographical gaps (rural, deprived areas)
- Increase attendance for Reception age children
- Ensure sufficiency of places for children with additional needs

Affordability

- Support families with low incomes to access provision
- Promote funded offers, subsidies, and tax-free childcare
- Work with providers to keep costs sustainable

Quality

- Ensure safeguarding and welfare requirements and LA processes are understood by providers
- Provide safe, stimulating environments
- Promote play-based and enrichment-focused provision
- Explore on-going training for the SACC LA team for a shared understanding of quality (such as SACERS)
- Ensure staff training and safeguarding standards

- Encourage Ofsted registration as required
- Promote the need for HAF providers+ to register as food businesses

Inclusion

- Provision for children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)
- Cultural sensitivity and inclusive practice
- Target support for vulnerable families to access services

Workforce Development

- Provide professional development – particularly linked to SEND
- Recruit and retain skilled staff
- Promote career progression in childcare sector

3. Key Priorities

3.1 Free Breakfast Clubs (FBCs)

- Promote and encourage all primary schools to offer FBCs (alongside PVIs)
- i) Seek guidance from LA support as ‘experts’ – re: food, business planning, promotion of the offer, etc
- Support development of FBCs by sharing learning from early adopters
 - Share information about FBCs as they are available to parents which will enable them to increase their working hours
 - Prioritise SACC LA Capacity funding for this ‘new’ initiative

3.2 Wraparound Care (WA)

- Ensure sufficient provision for before- and after-school care
- Work with schools to host on-site childcare
- Support childminders and private providers to extend hours

3.3 Holiday Activity and Food (HAF)

- Coordinate holiday programmes with existing schemes
- Ensure and promote food provision and enrichment activities
- Prioritise disadvantaged children
- Support long-term sustainability for HAF providers as childcare
- Where appropriate, deliver a blended approach of HAF and paid for holiday childcare

3.4 Partnership Working with ..

- Schools, academies, and trusts
- Private and voluntary childcare providers
- Community organisations and leisure services
- Employers (to support working parents)
- LA support services
- Parents to understand need

3.5 Demand & Sufficiency Planning

- Regular childcare sufficiency assessments
- Use population, employment, survey, and school data
- Identify gaps in provision and future demand
- Publish information for all providers to support future business planning

3.6 Inclusion & SEND Offer

- Provide training for mainstream providers to support the development of inclusive childcare provision
- Improve access to funding (where available)

4. Delivery Actions for 2026/2027

Short-Term (0–12 months- March 2026+)

- SACC team summarise the plan and our shared goal as a strategy
- Map existing provision and identify gaps [AP -sufficiency survey and Early Years Education and Childcare Sufficiency Assessment annual update]
- Consider sufficiency of holiday care and places.
- Complete parent/carer childcare survey
- Annual update of the Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Assessment to reflect the latest data and the new guidance on school age childcare.
- Increase awareness of childcare options [FIS]
- Embed wraparound programmes in priority areas [end of funding and WA monitoring via current DfE monitoring -AP]
- Promote DfE supported FBCs [All with GR as lead]
- Actively develop age-appropriate HAF offer particularly for early years and older children/young people
- Increase opportunities with providers for blended HAF and paid for holiday places
- Scope shared training for SACC collective team eg SACERS

Medium to Long-Term (1–2 years – March 2027+)

- Expand provision in underserved communities (as identified in EYC Sufficiency Assessment -AP *ongoing*)
- Develop workforce recruitment strategies if needed

- Strengthen partnerships with schools and childcare providers
- Maintain sufficiency across the area
- Embed sustainable funding models (DfE funding adjustments will impact on this)
- Seek intelligence from the on-going roll out of SACC to provide support (signposting, training, commissioned support, peer-to-peer support)
- Continuously improve quality standards linked to DfE expectations and shared quality indicators
- Roll out of FBCs to all primary schools in Solihull

5. Governance & Accountability

- **Lead Departments:** Education and Communities
- **Strategic Board:** Multi-partner group [see 1.]
- **Monitoring:** Regular planning meetings and DfE reporting (e.g. sufficiency, uptake, quality ratings, HAF score card.)
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Parents, schools, providers through sufficiency surveys and provider groupings for support.

6. Measures of Success

- Sufficient number of childcare places (FBC, WA, holiday care)
- Strong parental satisfaction
- Uptake of provision (especially disadvantaged groups)
- Reduction in childcare gaps if they exist
- A contribution to improved outcomes for children (attendance, wellbeing) as reported by schools/ families.

7. Communication Plan

- Parent information – Solihull website [FIS]
- Online childcare directories [FIS+ Maps]
- School engagement – Headteacher meetings and Headlines etc
- Outreach through community groups

8. Review of the plan March 2028 or as DfE guidance needs to result in change

9. SACC strategy published September 2026

10. Annex A

Funding information-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-capacity-support-funding>

Sufficiency Headline Actions [2025/6] linked to 2025/2026 childcare sufficiency assessment... <https://democracy.solihull.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=128681>

Monitor the delivery of holiday play schemes to assess if demand for provision is being met, in particular in Smith's Wood and Dorridge and Hockley Heath wards.