

The Sulgrave Club



**Junior Holiday Scheme
Summer 2026**

Introduction

The Sulgrave Junior Summer Holiday Scheme 2026 ran during the first three weeks of the summer holidays, from Tuesday 21st July to Thursday 6th August. The scheme was open from 11.00am to 3.30pm four days a week, Tuesday to Friday in Week 1, Monday to Thursday in Weeks 2 and 3. There were places for up to 50 children in school years 3 to 6 each day, and every child who attended was provided with a hot meal.

Every day, half the children would stay on-site, and half the children would go off-site. On-site activities included arts & crafts, football, basketball, dodgeball, roller skating, food-based quizzes and competitions, and 'Team Olympics'. Off-site activities included Ten Pin Bowling, Trampolining, Wall Climbing, Ice Skating, Holland Park, Acton Park, Orienteering, and to an air-conditioned cinema on the hottest day!

Parents and carers were encouraged to book their children in for all four days in a week, but it was not compulsory. Thanks to funding from the government's Holiday Activity and Food Fund programme, all activities, trips and hot meals were provided free of charge. Children were therefore able to participate irrespective of their families' ability to pay.

Headline Results

69 individual children benefited

27 attended all three weeks

41 attended each day (average)

82% take-up of places

**40 evaluation forms completed
each week (average)**

**97% of children said the scheme
made them happier**

91% reported improved confidence

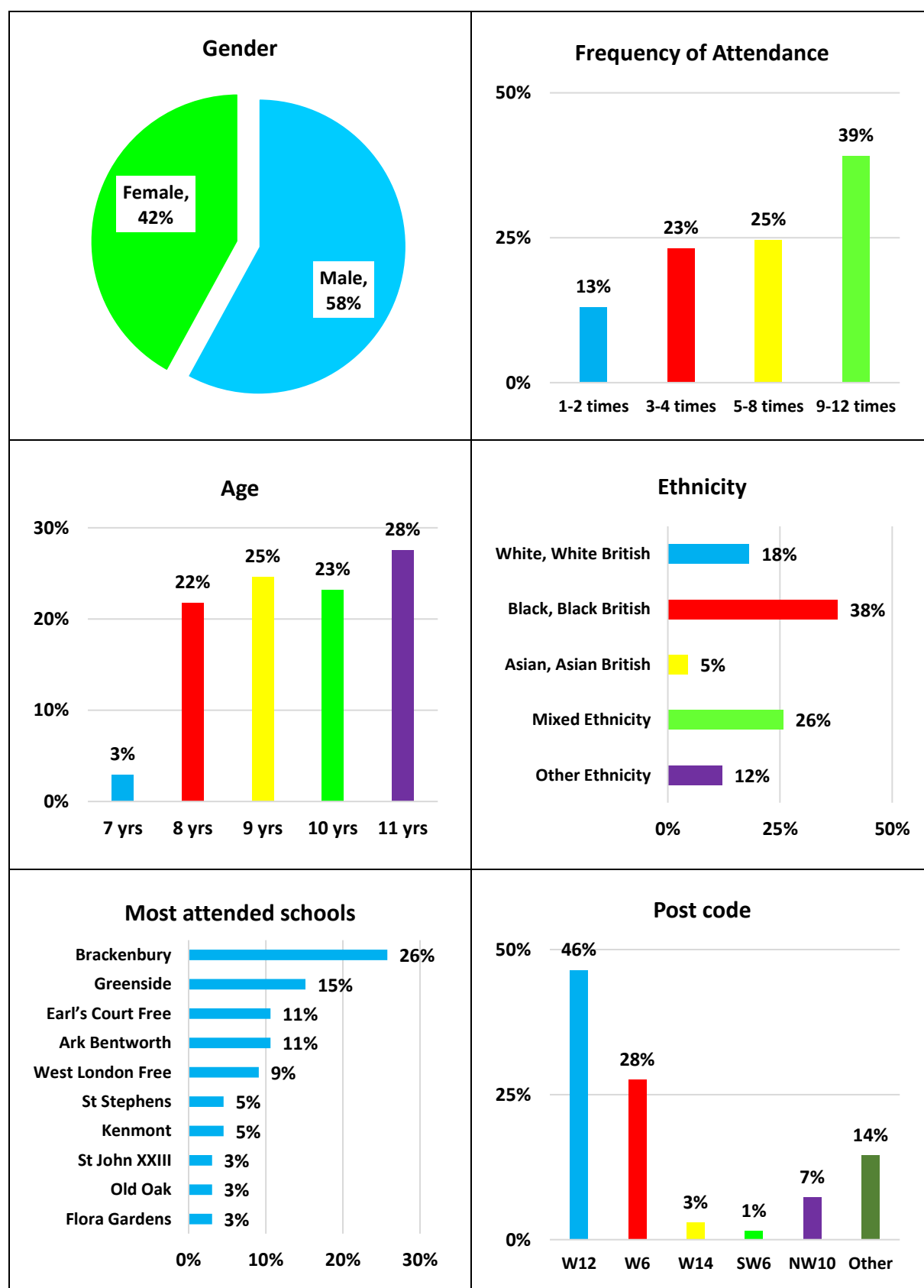
**91% rated their experience as
'Fantastic' or 'Good'**

**94% of their parents/carers rated
the scheme as 'Excellent'**



Attendance

In total, 69 different children attended at an average of 41 per day, representing an 82% take-up of available places. 27 attended all three weeks, demonstrating a strong level of sustained engagement with the programme. The 69 attendees broke down as:



Evaluation – children

Evaluation questionnaires were distributed to the children at the end of each week, asking them to rate the activities provided and to assess the impact of the scheme on their confidence, relationships, motivation, and happiness. Children were also asked to complete three sentences, one for each week:

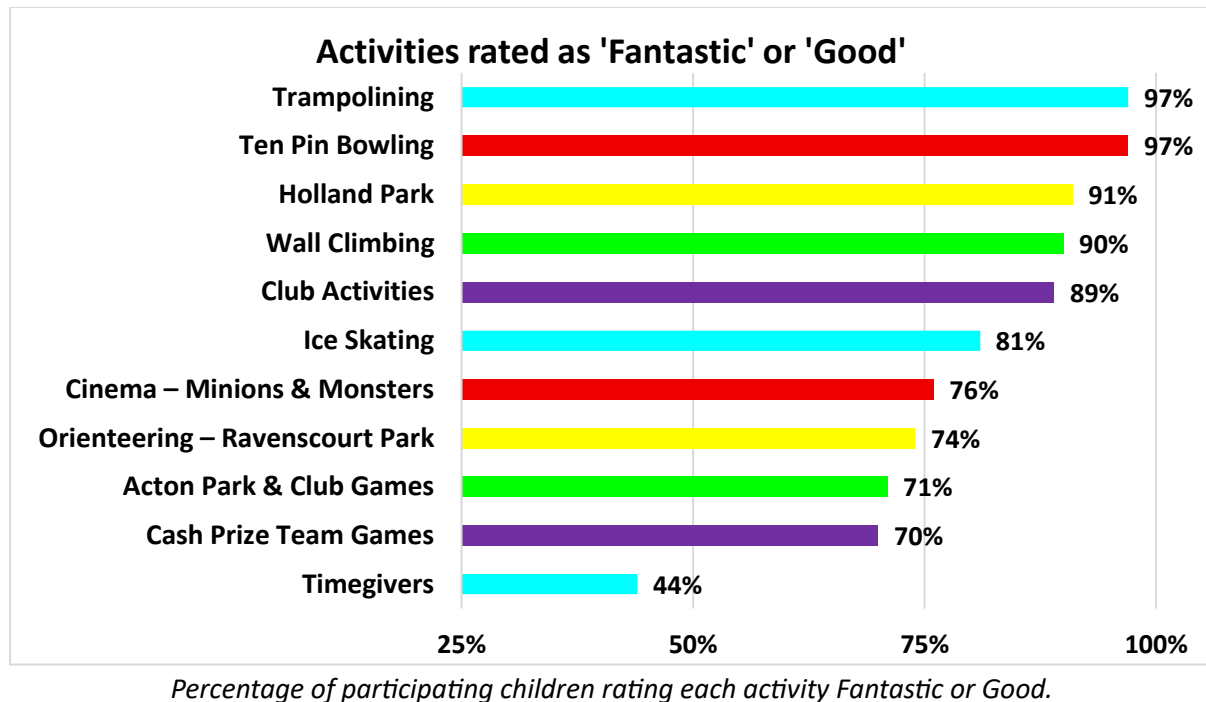
“I like coming on the Sulgrave Junior Holiday Activity Scheme because...”

“If I wasn’t on the Sulgrave Holiday Scheme I would be...”

“On the Sulgrave Junior Holiday Activity Scheme I learnt...”

Activities

120 forms were completed over the three weeks. A particularly useful finding was the strength of the active and off-site experiences.



Ten Pin Bowling and Trampolining were the outstanding activities, with 97% Fantastic/Good ratings, followed by Holland Park (91%), Wall Climbing (90%) and Club Activities (89%). Ice Skating was also very successful at 81%. At the other end, Timegivers (volunteering) had a much lower score, but it was an activity that a significant number of children did not take part in.



Impact

The returned questionnaires showed strong positive outcomes across the board. Children reported improvements in confidence, relationships, motivation, and happiness, with all our targets being exceeded by between 6% and 21%.

Measure	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	All	Target	+ / -
Evaluation forms	39	43	37	119	-	-
Whole week Fantastic/Good	92%	86%	94%	91%	85%	+ 6%
Happier	100%	95%	97%	97%	90%	+ 7%
More confident	90%	88%	95%	91%	70%	+ 21%
Want to do more things	89%	88%	94%	91%	80%	+ 11%
Get on better with other children	82%	81%	94%	86%	75%	+ 11%

Percentage of participating children giving positive ratings of 'A lot' or 'A little'.

"I like coming on the Sulgrave Junior Holiday Activity Scheme because..."

The strongest themes were **fun, friendship and the opportunity to take part in activities and trips**. Children repeatedly described Sulgrave as somewhere they could enjoy themselves, see existing friends and make new ones, while activities such as trampolining, bowling, sports, games and trips gave them experiences they might not otherwise have had. A smaller but important group specifically praised the **kindness and support of staff**, suggesting that the relationships surrounding the activities were an important part of their enjoyment.

"I like coming on the Sulgrave Junior Holiday Activity Scheme because Sulgrave have kind and respectful staff who always help me and my friends. It was amazing to meet you all. I will never leave."



“If I wasn’t on the Sulgrave Holiday Scheme I would be...”

These responses provide particularly useful evidence of the **difference the scheme makes to children’s school holidays**. Although some children would have enjoyed time with family, friends or at the park, many described the alternative as staying at home, sleeping, gaming or having little to do; several explicitly said they would be **bored, sad or unhappy**. The responses therefore suggest that Sulgrave provides not simply entertainment, but a structured and sociable alternative to relatively inactive or isolated time during the holidays.

“If I wasn’t on the Sulgrave Holiday Scheme I would be an absolute moanie and sad because I wouldn’t be able to spend time with friends.”

“On the Sulgrave Junior Holiday Activity Scheme I learnt...”

The dominant learning was **social and personal development**. Making friends, becoming more social, getting on with others, teamwork, confidence, perseverance and trying unfamiliar activities all featured prominently. Particularly encouraging were responses showing children had learnt to **face fears, keep trying, work as a team and accept that winning is not everything**. This suggests that the scheme's impact extended beyond participation in enjoyable activities to developing confidence, resilience and interpersonal skills.

“On the Sulgrave Junior Holiday Activity Scheme I learnt to be more social and (to) try to make more friends even if I don’t know anyone. I also learnt to try my best even if I am not winning.”



Evaluation – Parents / Carers

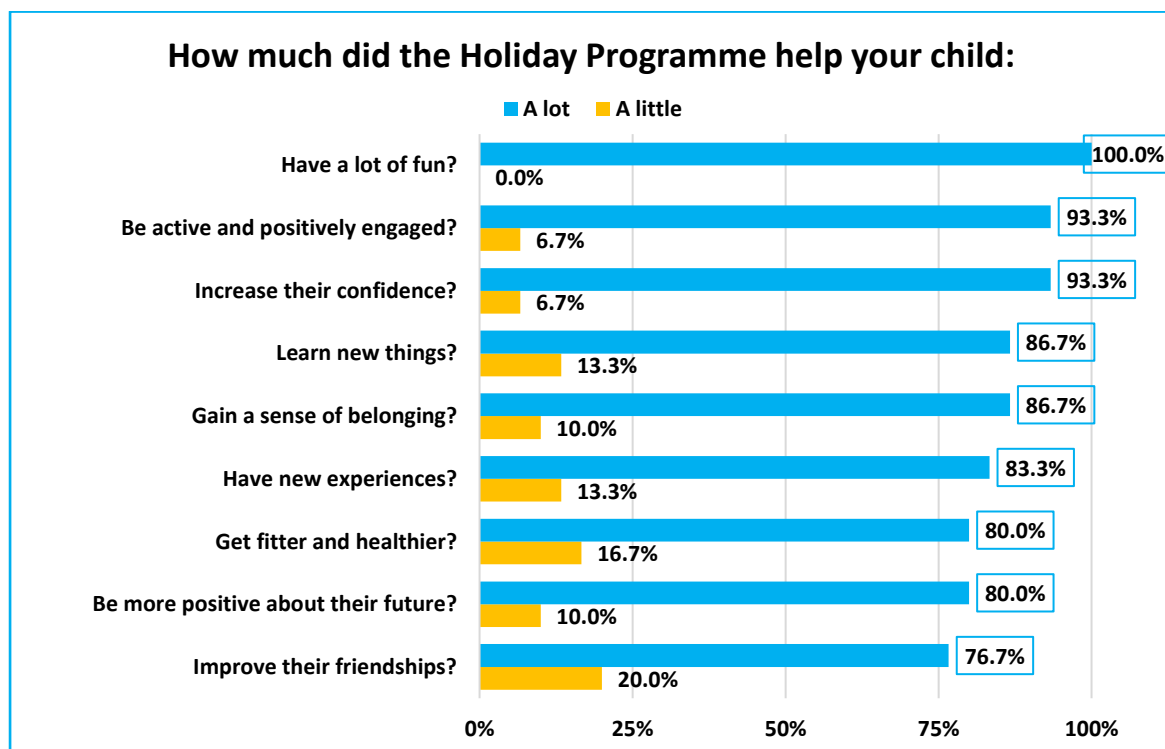
Parents and carers gave the Junior Holiday Scheme an **exceptionally positive overall assessment**. Feedback particularly praised the range of activities and trips, the organisation of the scheme, the welcoming atmosphere and the staff team. Parents frequently described their children as **enthusiastic about attending** and enjoying opportunities to socialise and reconnect with friends.

	Excellent	Good
Junior Holiday Scheme (18 respondents)	94.4%	5.6%
Intermediate & Seniors (17 respondents)	94.1%	5.9%
Holiday Programme Overall (29 respondents)	93.1%	6.9%

“The staff team were fantastic, my daughter thoroughly enjoyed the sessions she attended.”

Parents also reported **strong developmental benefits** for their children. Across the combined Junior, Intermediate and Senior parent evaluations, 100% said their child had **a lot** of fun, while 93.3% said the programme increased their confidence **a lot** and the same proportion said it helped them to be active and positively engaged.

Large majorities also reported **substantial benefits** in learning new things, gaining a sense of belonging, having new experiences, becoming fitter and healthier, feeling more positive about the future and improving friendships. This is reinforced by parents’ descriptions of children **becoming more independent, confident and socially engaged**.



“My daughter had the opportunity to forge new relationship, to learn new things and (to) gain insight.”

The scheme also had a significant practical and financial benefit for families. Parents valued knowing their children were safe, active and enjoying themselves while they worked, rested or completed other responsibilities. Several highlighted the importance of free activities, trips and food at a time of high living costs, as well as the benefit of children spending less time at home or on screens. One parent captured several of these family benefits particularly well:

“It gave me peace of mind and kept my son busy without me having to find things and saves on the costs of having to book things for the whole family.”

Staff Evaluations

Staff evaluations were **extremely positive**, giving the Junior Summer Holiday Scheme an average score of **9.75 out of 10**. Staff felt the programme was well organised, with a strong and supportive staff team, and highlighted how well children engaged with the activities, including trying unfamiliar experiences. Team games worked particularly well, while orienteering proved more successful than expected when a competitive element was introduced. Staff also noticed children bonding across the group and felt that new children were made to feel welcome.

"We have a good team, and everyone worked well together. Children were engaged on all activities and were willing to give new things a go."

The most important benefits identified by staff were **friendship, social development, teamwork and communication**. They particularly valued children mixing with different ages and friendship groups, rather than remaining with children they already knew. Staff observed children becoming more aware of how they communicated with others and how to include everybody within a team. There were also examples of significant individual development: one child who had previously caused some difficulties became an impressive team leader during orienteering, while another overcame an initial nervousness about ice skating, made friends and successfully skated several laps.

"You can really see the kids becoming more conscious of how they interact with people, and how to make sure everyone on their team feels included."



Learning for future schemes

Although feedback from the children was overwhelmingly positive, the activity ratings suggest that some activities were more popular than others. Future schemes could include more of the highly rated active trips and experiences, such as trampolining, bowling, climbing and park visits, while reviewing less popular activities such as Timegivers. Continuing to involve children in choosing future trips and activities would help ensure the programme reflects their interests.

Parents/carers had few suggestions for improvement, with 22 respondents simply answering “None”. Individual suggestions included extending the scheme, providing more trips and improving the booking system. Staff had few concerns about the scheme, generally feeling that it had run very well. Suggestions for improvement were limited to providing more outdoor activities, considering different trips and having an additional staff member for orienteering so that groups could be smaller and every child could participate more fully.

The consistently positive evidence from children, parents/carers and staff demonstrates the continuing need for accessible, high-quality holiday provision and the importance that funding has in enabling children and families to participate free of charge.



Conclusion

Overall, the 2026 Junior Summer Holiday Scheme was a highly successful programme, providing 69 children with three weeks of free, safe and stimulating holiday activities, with an average of 41 children attending each day.

The evidence from children, parents/carers and staff is remarkably consistent: children enjoyed the activities and new experiences while developing confidence, friendships, social skills, motivation and happiness. All four of the Club’s key impact targets were exceeded, including 97% of children reporting increased happiness and 91% increased confidence.

Parents also highlighted the wider value to families, particularly the reassurance of knowing their children were safe and engaged, the opportunity to work or manage other responsibilities, and the financial benefit of free activities, trips and meals. Staff observations reinforced these findings, identifying examples of children overcoming fears, forming new friendships, working together and taking on greater responsibility.

Taken together, the findings demonstrate that the scheme achieved its aim of giving children an enjoyable and memorable summer while also delivering meaningful benefits to their wellbeing, confidence, relationships and personal development.