# Government launches pilot scheme for free breakfast clubs in schools



The Government's initiative to implement free breakfast clubs in schools has taken a significant step forward with the announcement of 750 state schools selected to partake in a pilot scheme across England. This trial is set to begin in April 2024 and aims to provide free breakfasts along with at least 30 minutes of childcare for all primary-aged children before the start of their school day.

This initiative, outlined during Labour's party conference in September, is part of a larger strategy, underscored by a funding commitment of £7 million. Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson remarked on the aim of the clubs to dismantle the correlation between a child's background and their subsequent academic success, stating, “Alongside our plans to roll out school-based nurseries and get thousands more children school-ready, this Government is delivering the reforms needed to give every child, wherever they grow up, the best start in life.”

While the headteachers' union shared their endorsement of the breakfast clubs, cautionary notes were also expressed regarding the adequacy of the funding allocated. Paul Whiteman, general secretary of the NAHT, voiced concerns, highlighting that “It will be crucial that these concerns are addressed before the programme is rolled out across the country to ensure that it does not place further pressure on already strained school budgets, and that children and families can fully reap the benefits.”

Among the chosen schools, a variety of institutions from different regions have been listed, including Welbeck Academy and Our Lady and St Anne’s Catholic Primary School in Newcastle upon Tyne, to schools based in Greater London such as John Perry Primary School in Barking and Dagenham.

The comprehensive list of selected schools includes a diverse range of schools and local authorities across the country. As the pilot programme prepares for its launch, attention will turn to how the selected institutions implement the initiative and the broader implications for education and child welfare in England as the possibility of a national rollout looms following the pilot completion.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.sustainweb.org/news/nov24-schools-urged-to-sign-up-for-free-breakfast-club-rollout/> - This article supports the claim that the government is implementing a free breakfast club program in primary schools across England, with a pilot scheme involving up to 750 schools starting in April 2025.
* <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/we-cant-run-at-a-loss-heads-snub-flagship-breakfast-clubs/> - This article corroborates concerns about the adequacy of funding for the breakfast clubs, with some schools expressing financial difficulties due to the basic funding rate of 60p per pupil.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education> - This is the official website of the Department for Education, which would provide information on government initiatives such as the breakfast club program.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education> - The BBC's education section often covers news about educational initiatives and policies, including those related to school breakfast clubs.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education> - The Independent's education section provides coverage of educational news and policies, which could include updates on the breakfast club initiative.