# New government pilot scheme to offer free breakfast clubs in 750 primary schools



The Bristol Post has reported that 750 state primary schools across England have been selected to participate in a government pilot scheme offering free breakfast clubs for pupils. This initiative aims to provide a free breakfast alongside at least 30 minutes of childcare before school hours, with the pilot set to launch in April 2024 and run until July of the same year.

The scheme, which has been allocated £7 million in funding, was announced during the Labour Party's conference in September 2023, with the intention of assessing the programme's delivery before a wider rollout across the country. Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson has highlighted the initiative's potential to bridge the gap between children's backgrounds and their educational 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.”

In response to the scheme, the headteachers’ union has welcomed the inclusion of breakfast clubs, already operated by some schools. However, there are concerns regarding whether the funding will adequately cover the associated costs. Paul Whiteman, the general secretary of the NAHT, emphasized the importance of addressing these funding concerns prior to nationwide implementation to avoid additional financial pressure on schools. He remarked, “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.”

A comprehensive list of the chosen schools is now available, featuring institutions from various local authorities across England, including Newcastle upon Tyne, Sunderland, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees, among many others. The selection spans regions and includes schools such as Welbeck Academy in Newcastle upon Tyne, Barnwell Academy in Sunderland, and Skelton Primary School in Redcar and Cleveland.

This pilot program is part of a broader effort by the government to enhance educational support for children and families throughout England, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that every child receives the best possible start to their education, irrespective of their socio-economic background. The rollout of this initiative is anticipated with keen interest from educators and communities nationwide.

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 URL supports the claim that the government is launching a free breakfast club program in primary schools across England, aiming to improve educational outcomes by providing a supportive start to the day.
* <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/we-cant-run-at-a-loss-heads-snub-flagship-breakfast-clubs/> - This article corroborates concerns about the funding for the breakfast clubs, highlighting that some schools are pulling out due to insufficient funding, which might not cover costs such as staffing and food.
* <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/22/2024-07496/guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance> - Although not directly related to the UK's breakfast club initiative, this URL provides general guidance on financial assistance, which can be relevant when discussing funding schemes.
* <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf> - This document is unrelated to the UK's breakfast club initiative but is included as it pertains to court rules and financial considerations in a different context.
* <https://www.ala.org/sites/default/files/acrl/content/publications/booksanddigitalresources/digital/9780838987179_OA.pdf> - This resource is not directly related to the breakfast club initiative but discusses educational support and information literacy, which can be tangentially relevant to broader educational initiatives.