**Breakfast clubs early adopters scheme**

Information for schools on what the breakfast clubs early adopters scheme is and how to apply.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/breakfast-clubs-early-adopters-scheme>

**Overview**

The government is committed to offering a free breakfast club in every primary school in England. Breakfast clubs support children’s attendance and attainment, enabling them to thrive academically and socially.

Schools with primary-school-aged children can apply to become an early adopter of the universal free breakfast club’s scheme.

Through the Breakfast club early adopters’ scheme, 750 participating state-funded schools will be funded by DfE, to provide children with access to a breakfast club that involves free food and childcare, starting from April 2025.

**Purpose of the scheme**

Early adopters of the breakfast club scheme, will have the unique also opportunity to shape national breakfast club policy, contributing directly to its design and implementation. By participating, you will help the government to provide positive outcomes for children, families, and communities across England, and help DfE test and learn what works for a national rollout.

DfE are looking for early adopter schools across different school types, sizes and geographical areas to ensure a wide representation.

DfE cannot accept applications via consortiums, groups of schools or local authorities. While trusts may express interest in implementing the programme across multiple schools, each school must submit an individual application, logging in with its own DfE Sign-in. Within the form, you can indicate if you want to participate either individually or as part of a wider rollout across multiple schools within your trust.

The form will close on 20 December 2024. Applications will not be accepted after this point.

[Breakfast clubs early adopter scheme - DFE Online Forms](https://form-sso.education.gov.uk/en/service/breakfast-club-ea-scheme)

DfE will contact you in January 2025 to confirm whether your expression of interest has been successful.

**Eligibility to apply**

All state-funded schools with primary-school-aged children in England are eligible to apply for the scheme. This can include:

* state-funded primary schools for pupils in reception through to Year 6
* special schools and registered alternative provision with primary-school-aged children
* all other state-funded schools with primary-school-aged children, including infant, junior, first, middle and all-through schools

DfE are expressly looking to understand how the breakfast club policy is implemented in a range of schools and welcome interest from those:

* with an existing breakfast or before-school childcare offer (see [wraparound childcare and National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP) section](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/breakfast-clubs-early-adopters-scheme#wraparound-childcare-NSBP))
* without any existing provision
* that already work with, or are considering working with PVI childcare providers, including childminders, to deliver their breakfast clubs
* that may face initial challenges with setting up breakfast club provision

If you are already receiving funding to deliver breakfast provision from another source, the expectation of DfE is that you will end current funding or engage with the relevant funder to agree how it can be used in a way that ensures there is no duplication of funding.

DfE expect that all schools taking part in the scheme will, as a minimum:

* deliver breakfast club provision that provides healthy food, compliant with the Requirements for School Food Regulations 2014 (also known as the [School Food Standards](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standards-for-school-food-in-england))
* deliver breakfast club provision that provides at least 30 minutes of free childcare before the start of the school day
* ensure the club is open to all children of primary-school age on roll at the school
* provide this club free to parents and carers
* regularly report data and take part in an evaluation of the scheme as requested

Beyond the minimum expectations, you have flexibility in how to deliver breakfast clubs. You know your pupils, families and context best.

**The government continues to expect that all schools that educate primary-school-aged pupils have school-run or PVI-provider-run wraparound childcare, so that families have access to the childcare they need.**

To support you in implementing the scheme, DfE will publish guidance and supporting materials (including case studies and templates) in January 2025. DfE will also provide further targeted support, including on food procurement, to successful early adopter schools before the April 2025 launch.

**Funding**

Early adopter schools will be funded directly by the government. You should use this funding to cover:

* food
* delivery
* staffing costs

DfE will publish full details of how funding will be determined alongside the guidance in January 2025.

DfE will make a:

* one-off payment between April and May 2025 to assist with set-up costs
* second payment, in arrears, between September and November 2025

The amount you receive in the second payment will be based on the number of children attending the breakfast club. Some schools will also be eligible for an additional amount depending on:

* additional need (Ever 6 FSM)
* the variation in staffing costs based on geographical location

DfE will aim to communicate payment schedules for the following academic year in summer term 2025.

In addition to direct funding, DfE recognise the importance of ensuring that practical support is available to schools as they seek to establish high-quality breakfast club provision. This is why DfE are funding a package of support for all schools in the scheme. DfE will confirm further details of the support available in early 2025.

[The Department for Education's Breakfast Clubs Early Adopter Webinar](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=yXfS-grGoU2187O4s0qC-VRLiMapb9xLp-kt8fMCMM5URVJDSk42QUdBQ0JRUkpTSjhKNjEyTUlBSS4u&route=shorturl)

The Department for Education's Breakfast Clubs Early Adopter Webinar

**This form will close at 16:00 on Monday 2nd December.**

[Breakfast clubs early adopter scheme - DFE Online Forms](https://form-sso.education.gov.uk/en/service/breakfast-club-ea-scheme)

**Applications will close on Friday 20th December.**