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Check out our website for more on our work in England

Our Priorities for the UK Government

About Magic Breakfast:

Magic Breakfast is the UK's leading school breakfast charity and makes a difference to over 300,000 children and young people every day by providing breakfasts and expert advice to tackle morning hunger in schools across England and Scotland. Alongside support in our partner schools, Magic Breakfast drives long-term change through research, advocacy and campaigning; working with policymakers to create a future where every child and young person is nourished, empowered and able to thrive.

The importance of school breakfast provision

We welcome the progressive steps being taken to create a school system in which every child can achieve and thrive, recognising that education, opportunity and future outcomes are closely interlinked. School food, including breakfast provision, has an important role to play in supporting this wider ambition. The introduction of the Free Breakfast Club Programme (FBCP) for primary-aged pupils, now enshrined in law through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act, represents an important development in expanding access to school breakfast provision. **However, too many children and young people are still missing out on the wider benefits that breakfast can provide.**

Child morning hunger is more than just a lack of food; it is a barrier to opportunity that affects children and young people's education, health, wellbeing and life chances. School breakfast provision is about far more than providing a meal. It helps create the conditions for children and young people to engage in learning, improve attainment, build key skills critical for their life chances and future employment, and develop a sense of belonging and participation in their schools and communities.

Our priorities for the UK Government

1. Expand school breakfast provision to secondary-aged pupils.

The National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP) currently provides funding to around 900 schools with secondary-aged pupils in areas of high disadvantage, but this funding is due to end in July 2027. As our latest research shows, secondary school breakfast provision is not only a response to morning hunger, it's a vital investment in young people's education, health, life chances and employment opportunities.



Future Employment Outcomes & Life Chances: School breakfast provision supports increased educational attainment and skills development, helping to reduce the risk of young people becoming NEET. As reported in our Annual Breakfast Survey, 82% of schools say it improves life chances.

Economic Benefits: School breakfast provision can generate around £9,200 per pupil equating to a return of £50 for every £1 invested. Department for Education research found that a one-grade improvement in GCSE attainment is associated with an average increase of £8,500 in lifetime earnings.

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Cost of Living: 88% of our partner schools reported that school breakfast provision helps ease the pressure on household budgets. At a time when 72% of children living in poverty are in working families, breakfast provision offers practical, targeted support that helps families manage the cost of living.

Health & Wellbeing: 86% of schools report school breakfast provision improves children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, while 88% say it supports healthier eating habits. By supporting improved nutrition and mental health, it has the potential to deliver substantial cost savings for the NHS and children's mental health services.

Crime Prevention & Social Belonging: Our evidence shows that nutritional interventions reduce offending by 82%, anti-social behaviour by 52% and aggression by 38%. A recent report from the Police and Crime Committee recommended secondary school breakfast provision as a means of reducing knife crime and protecting young people from gang violence.

We are calling on the Government to recognise the cross-cutting outcomes school breakfast provision can provide for young people and establish a secondary-aged school breakfast programme.

2. Ensure the Free Breakfast Club Programme is inclusive and accessible for children and young people with SEND.



Many special schools are all-through schools where pupils of different ages often learn alongside each other. In its current form, the FBCP requires special schools to provide a school breakfast for their primary-aged pupils but their older, secondary-aged classmates are ineligible for this opportunity even when sat side-by-side in the same classroom or canteen. This creates unnecessary inequality for young people already facing some of the greatest barriers to participation.

Extending the scope of the FBCP policy to include older pupils with SEND in all-through special schools would cost just £14.36 million over the next three years. This would ensure that young people with SEND are not excluded from the benefits of breakfast provision simply because of their age, while recognising the distinctive needs of all-through SEND settings.

3. Continue to roll-out the Free Breakfast Club programme and ensure it is accessible to all pupils.

The Free Breakfast Club Programme (FBCP) is a significant step forward in ensuring every child can start their day well, improving:

- **Attendance:** School breakfast provision results in 26 fewer half-days of absence per year.
- **Attainment:** Research carried out by the IFS found that school breakfast provision boosts reading, writing and maths by an average of 2 months' progress.
- **Behaviour:** An EEF study found that in schools with breakfast provision, pupil behaviour and the classroom environment improved concluding that school breakfast "improves outcomes for children who do not even attend breakfast club".

We are calling on the Government to continue to roll-out the FBCP to schools as soon as possible to ensure every child can benefit and remove barriers to delivery such as home-to-school transport and accessibility which prevent some pupils, especially those with SEND, from attending breakfast clubs.

To learn more about our work, schedule a meeting, or arrange an opportunity to see our breakfast provision in action, please do get in touch at advocacy@magicbreakfast.com.