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Free Breakfast in Primary Schools



mae addysg
yn dechrau
yn y cartref
education
begins
at home

Free Breakfast in Primary Schools which are maintained by a local authority



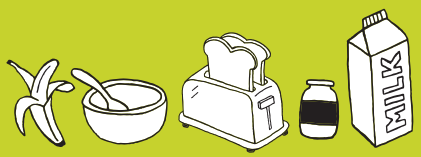
All children who go to a primary school which is maintained by a local authority can have a free breakfast at school, if their school provides free breakfasts. If their school doesn't provide free breakfasts, you can ask them if they could start providing them. Local authorities must provide schools with free breakfasts if the schools ask for them, unless it is unreasonable to do so.

Autumn 2014 was the 10th anniversary of the Free Breakfast in Primary Schools scheme. Having a healthy breakfast may help to improve children's health and concentration. This may help them to learn better.

Under sections 88–90 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the breakfasts provided in primary schools must be healthy.

What food is available?

Cereal with no added sugar such as:
Wholewheat cereals
Cornflakes
Rice-based cereals
Shredded wholegrain wheat cereals
Malted wheat squares
Bran flakes
Porridge



Milk
Yogurts
Semi-skimmed or skimmed milk (whole milk is served in nurseries)

Bread
A variety of breads with thinly spread toppings such as margarine, jam, marmalade and honey

Fruit
Chopped fresh fruit or dried fruit to add to cereals
Canned fruit in natural juice
Unsweetened fruit and vegetable juices



Frequently asked questions

Is my child eligible for free breakfasts at primary school?

Your child is entitled to receive free breakfasts if the primary school they go to is maintained by the local authority and provides free breakfasts. You need to ask the school for free breakfasts for your child to receive them.

What if my child's school doesn't provide free breakfasts?

You can ask the school's headteacher and governing body to start providing free breakfasts if the school is maintained by the local authority. If the school feels that enough parents/carers want free breakfasts for their children, it can ask the local authority to provide them. The local authority must provide the school with free breakfasts unless it considers it unreasonable to do so.

Why might a local authority consider it unreasonable for a school to provide free breakfasts?

Local authorities might consider it unreasonable for a school to provide free breakfasts if:

- not many children would like free breakfasts
- the school doesn't have a suitable place or the equipment needed to serve free breakfasts to children
- the school isn't able to get staff to supervise free breakfasts.

What time can my child have a free breakfast?

The school must allow enough time for children to choose their breakfast, eat it without rushing and start normal school activities. Breakfast should normally be provided approximately 30 minutes before the start of the school day. However, it is up to the school and local authority to agree a suitable amount of time to allow for breakfast.

Is my child's school allowed to charge parents/carers for breakfast clubs?

If the school receives funding from the Welsh Government to provide free breakfasts, it must not charge for breakfasts. Funding for the Free Breakfast in Primary Schools scheme covers the cost of the food, supervisors and any other costs of setting up free breakfasts in the school. Schools must not charge for any part of free breakfasts. If the school has a private breakfast club, which may include childcare, you may be charged for this. Remember that you can ask the school to provide free breakfasts.

Who will look after my child while they have free breakfasts?

Schools must carry out health and safety assessments to make sure that children are safe while having free breakfasts. This includes making sure that children are supervised during breakfast.

Do schools that provide free breakfasts also provide childcare?

The Free Breakfast in Primary Schools scheme does not provide childcare. Children are supervised during breakfast. This is to make sure that they can safely choose their breakfast and eat it before the start of the school day. Schools may charge for childcare before the free breakfast session starts. This is often referred to as 'wraparound childcare'. This childcare is separate from the Free Breakfast in Primary School scheme. Schools must not charge you for the cost of staff who supervise free breakfasts.

What if my child wants to go to a 'free breakfast club' but doesn't want to eat breakfast?

The aim of the Free Breakfast in Primary Schools scheme is to provide children with a healthy breakfast before the start of the school day. For this reason schools may encourage children to eat breakfast.

What if my child has special dietary needs?

It is important that you tell the school before your child has free breakfasts if he or she has any special dietary needs, including allergies and intolerances. The school will then make sure that all the people who supervise the free breakfasts are aware of this.

For further information contact:

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CF10 3NQ

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This leaflet is available electronically on the Welsh Government website:

www.gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/foodanddrink/breakfast



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