

Arboretum Primary School is a very large primary school, located in the heart of Normanton, Derby's most deprived ward. The school embraces a diverse student body of 626 pupils, speaking 39 languages.

We visited the breakfast provision at Arboretum and spoke with Sarah Ferguson, the Assistant Headteacher.

The positive impact of this service on the pupils and their families was immediately clear. The students' smiling faces as they entered the breakfast club, enjoying the opportunity to sit, eat, and play with their friends, was heartwarming.

The breakfast provision is especially important given the socio-economic challenges many families in the area face. The school recognises that some students may not always have enough to eat, so it's encouraging to see them access this vital service. For the past year, they have offered a 'no questions asked' breakfast policy ensuring that all pupils can eat without fear of judgment, making breakfast an essential part of the school's support for its students.

## The Breakfast Provision

The school has implemented a breakfast provision for everyone, which includes a breakfast club and in-class breakfast stations.

**Breakfast Club:** Breakfast club is open to all and starts at 8:00 am. After eating pupils can participate in indoor activities or play sports outdoors, led by a sports coach. Over 60 children per week access this provision.

**In-Class Breakfast Stations:** Every classroom has a breakfast station set up each morning where students can access bagels and cereal. Students spread their own bagels, encouraging independence and life skills. The breakfast bar also offers a chance to catch up with friends prior to learning starting.

## Staffing and Funding

This initiative forms part of the school's Pupil Premium (PP) strategy. The school employs additional kitchen staff and a sports coach to ensure the smooth operation of the breakfast club, which has created an engaging and positive start to the day.

## Unique Feature of the School Breakfast Provision

One unique feature of the breakfast provision is the setup of breakfast bars in each classroom, where students can enjoy bagels and cereal in small cups while remaining at their desks. Everyone is able to access the breakfast during registration and the early part of literacy. This approach ensures that breakfast is seamlessly integrated into the school day.



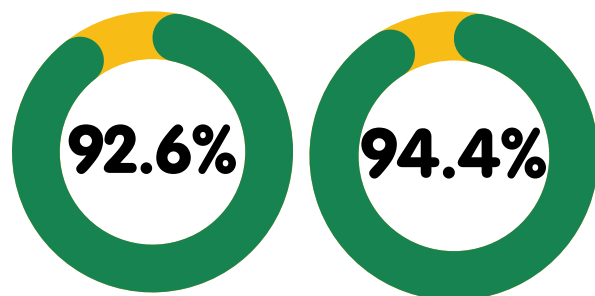
# IMPACT OF THE NSBP

## Impact on Teaching and Learning

Since the introduction of the breakfast provision, the school has seen significant improvements in:

- **Attendance:** The average attendance rate increased from 92.61% in November 2023, when the programme started, to 94.4% in September 2024.
- **Wellbeing:** The availability of breakfast has contributed to better overall student wellbeing, as pupils start the day well-fed and ready to learn.
- **Punctuality:** The breakfast club has also encouraged more students to arrive on time, knowing that they can get a healthy breakfast.

## Attendance



Before NSBP September 2024

## Targeting Pupils

As part of the school's ongoing work with families, targeted children are invited to breakfast club to support attendance, punctuality and remove some pressure from the morning routine. Additionally, offering breakfast in classrooms means if pupils are running late, parents don't have to worry about breakfast.



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Every child can access breakfast from the minute they enter the classroom. This means no child ever has to be hungry in silence or feel embarrassed to say they haven't eaten this morning.

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Mrs Ferguson, Assistant Head teacher

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We feel very much a family at Arboretum Primary School and offering a breakfast provision allows us to develop that feeling for all our pupils.

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Mrs Phillips, Head teacher

The school is proud that they have been able to go the extra mile in supporting their pupils, not only providing them with breakfast but ensuring they are ready to learn and set up for the school day. It has eased the financial and logistical burdens for many families and become an essential part of the school community.