

Briefing on Supported Amendments

Magic Breakfast has worked with Emma Lewell-Buck MP to introduce a number of amendments. This briefing outlines the impact and need for these amendments. This has been produced ahead of their formal introduction so does not note their official numbers.

Measuring and Monitoring

Clause XX, page XX, line XX, at end insert—

“551E Publication of data

The Secretary of State must acquire and regularly publish data on breakfast club provision in schools, including data on—

- (a) characteristics of those receiving breakfast in schools (including eligibility for free school meals);
- (b) uptake levels;
- (c) satisfaction levels amongst pupils and parents;
- (d) any assessment of the impact of provision on attendance, behaviour, health and wellbeing.”

If accepted, this amendment would give formal credence to the data driven decision making we believe the Department for Education is committed to. Publishing this data is in line with other pieces of legislation and is in the public interest.

If in the public realm, parliament will be able to better hold the Government to account for ensuring that no child is too hungry to learn.

Special Schools

Clause XX, page XX, line XX, at end insert “ “and for all pupils attending special schools”

Clause XX, page XX, line X, at end insert—

“‘special schools’ has the meaning set out in section 337 of the Education Act 1996.”

If accepted, these amendments would extend the scope of the bill by just 2.22% to reach all pupils in special schools as defined in the appropriate Act. Ensuring these 2.22% of pupils is vital for the policy to

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be a success. Otherwise, many special schools, which are all through schools in many cases, will feel the need to provide a comparative provision out of existing budgets.

Guidance and supplementary forms of provision

Clause XX, page XX, line XX, leave out “have regard to “ and insert “comply with”

Clause XX, page XX, line XX, at end insert—

“551CA Promotion of supplementary models of provision

The Secretary of State must seek to promote and support the development of supplementary models of provision where appropriate, including

- (a) classroom based provision.
- (b) takeaway provision, and
- (c) nurture group services.”

Clause XX, page XX, line XX, at end insert—

“(d) matter arising from the Secretary of State’s duty under section 551CA.”

If accepted, these amendments would firstly strengthen the legal requirement for relevant authorities to comply with guidance.

Furthermore, these amendments would add in to the guidance a requirement for schools to be supported to deliver additional models of breakfast provision. These models, delivered alongside breakfast clubs, would better support schools and allow the Government to meet its policy intentions in a better way.

Evidence from the Education Endowment Foundation found that delivering this mixed model approach is 75% cheaper per pupil than a breakfast club only model. These amendments wouldn’t mandate that school deliver additional models but would give them the legal flexibility and encouragement to take a place-based approach.

Advice and Support

Clause XX, page XX, line XX, at end insert—

“551F Advice and support

- (1) The Secretary of State must provide to any school to which the duty under section 551B applies advice and support services when this is requested by the appropriate authority of a relevant school
- (2) The services provided by the Secretary of State in accordance with subsection (1) should include advice and support from individuals with specialist knowledge of the delivery of school breakfast provision.”

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If accepted, this amendment would provide schools with expert support and advice to deliver breakfast provision. This is in line with the roll out of the Early Adopter Scheme. The EAS accepts that schools may require support to make such a change as delivering an effective breakfast provision.

The Education Endowment Foundation described advice and support as the 'lynchpin' of the effectiveness of the model that Magic Breakfast delivered. Schools having access to such a service will be vital to ensuring that children and young people are reached by the policy.

Power of Exemption

Clause XX, page XX, line XX, at end insert—

"(2A) Before making an application under subsection (1), the appropriate authority of a relevant school must consider whether the duty might be met by other forms of breakfast provision including—

- (a) classroom-based provision, or
- (b) takeaway provision, either at school or at a proximate site."

Clause XX, page XX, line XX, at end insert "and if the condition in subsection (4A) is met.

(4A) The condition in this subsection is that the Secretary of State is satisfied that the appropriate authority of a relevant school has fully considered other forms of breakfast provision in accordance with subsection (2A)."

If accepted, these amendments will offer a backstop between being able to deliver a breakfast club and not delivering any form of provision. Magic Breakfast expect the clauses to be used in exceptionally limited circumstances. However, due to school transport and medical needs a traditional breakfast club is not the appropriate method of delivery for many special schools. The current drafting of the bill risks such schools being left out of delivering breakfast.