



Period Dignity
at
St. Mary's on the Hill Primary School



Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (*The Act*)

The introduction of the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, (*The Act*), stipulates that from 12 May 2024, St. Mary's on the Hill P.S has a statutory duty to provide period products, free of charge, on its premises. We are lucky to have had this provision in place for a number of years and will continue to build on this success.

Aim of the Act

The overarching aim of the Act is to ensure period products are provided free of charge to all persons in Northern Ireland who need them. Furthermore, the Act specifies that arrangements established to meet this aim must ensure the following:

1. that the period products are obtainable by users, reasonably easily and in a way that respects the dignity, privacy and confidentiality of the persons obtaining them;
2. that a reasonable choice of different types of period products are made available, having regard to articles which are reusable; and
3. that the availability of free products and the arrangements for obtaining them are publicised in a way that respects dignity, privacy and confidentiality.

Requirement to Publish a Written Statement

The Act also specifies that St. Mary's on the Hill P.S must prepare and publish a written statement on the arrangements which have been established to provide free period products on its premises.

The written statement must include the following:

1. details of the consultation conducted;
2. the agreed arrangements (for the provision of free period products) which have been established; and
3. how the school has, in developing these arrangements, had regard to DfE's guidance and feedback received through the consultation phase.

Consultation

The school consulted with staff and pupils to determine the arrangements to be put in place. The questions centred on:

1. Which products should be made available.
2. Where they should be placed.
3. How they should be accessed, and
4. How they should be publicised.

Unstructured interviews were completed with a sample group of pupils and 59 pupil questionnaire responses were received.

All feedback was considered and resulted in agreed arrangements being made.

Agreed Arrangements

Following consultation, the following arrangements have been put in place:

1. Provision of sanitary towels in each P6 and P7 classroom.
2. Availability of sanitary towels from designated adults in the P6 and P7 learning areas.
3. They will be easily and openly accessed, whilst being discretely managed by the designated staff.

4. Their availability will be communicated via staff and parent email.
5. Posters will be displayed in the girls' toilets in the P6 and P7 areas.
6. Sanitary towels are freely available in each of the designated female staff toilets. These can be accessed by anyone in need whilst on the premises.

Commitment

St. Mary's on the Hill Primary School is committed to promoting the availability of period products and will continue to consult with stakeholders to ensure best support within our school setting.