



St Mary's College

Statement on Arrangements for the Provision of Free Period Products

Details of Specified Public Service Body

Name of Specified Public Service Body	St Mary's College
Main Address of Specified Public Service Body	35 Northland Road DERRY BT48 0AN
Reference to Annex/hyperlink to full list of sites where free period products are available	St Mary's College 35 Northland Road DERRY BT48 0AN

Publication Details

Date of first publication	December 2024
Dates of subsequent publication	September 2025 and annually thereafter
Where will this Statement be published?	- St Mary's College Website: https://www.stmarysderry.com/ - Posters throughout the school building - Link sent via text message to parents / guardians

Details of Consultation Carried Out

WHEN was a consultation carried out?	September 2024 – December 2024
WHO was consulted?	Staff, Visitors and other Stakeholders via Microsoft Forms Pupils via Microsoft Forms Consultation was created based on the guidance provided by the Department of Education (Annex D) May 2024
HOW did the consultation <u>process</u> establish: - the ways in which products users ought to be able to obtain free period products? - the locations in the SPSBs premises in which period products ought to be obtainable free of charge?	Since it is already our working practice to provide period products, the consultation provides an opportunity for respondents to suggest any changes to or comments on the current provision. Consultation questions followed the guidance provided by the Department of Education (Annex D) May 2024. The consultation process asked pupils, staff and other stakeholders direct questions on

iii. the types of period products which ought to be available?	a) the ways in which products users ought to be able to obtain free period products? b) the locations in the SPSBs premises in which period products ought to be obtainable free of charge? c) the types of period products which ought to be available? Responses endorsed current provision methods.
HOW has the consultation <u>process</u> had regard to: i. dignity, privacy and confidentiality of product users ii. articles which are reusable	The consultation process asked pupils, staff and other stakeholders direct questions on How they felt about: • dignity, privacy and confidentiality of product users • articles which are reusable Responses endorsed current provision methods. To uphold privacy and confidentiality the consultation was carried out via an anonymous Form.

The Arrangements

It has already been the practice at St Mary's College to provide free period products for pupils, staff and other visitors /stakeholders. A consultation process was carried out a consultation process relating to the provision of free period products as detailed in the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022. Previous relevant consultation was conducted prior to providing free period products in 2018. Consultation clearly affirmed the current systems of provision within St Mary's College, Derry. It has been our working practice to provide period products for students and staff in central baskets in all staff and pupil bathrooms. Self-Service provision is also available from a basket in the Medical Room and on request from the School Office.

After the consultation practice was changed to put period products into bags inside every toilet cubicle in St Mary's to enhance privacy and dignity. Additionally Period Products were also located in form teachers' rooms and are also available from the Vice Principal for Junior School and the Senior Teacher office. This is now normal working practice.

Current provision also includes the supply of two different product types (Pads of differing absorbency and tampons). Reusable pants and tights are available from the School Office, the Staffroom and the Vice Principal for Junior School and the Senior Teacher office.

In line with Departmental guidance, the availability and locations of free period products within St Mary's College will be advertised at pertinent points throughout the school premises, in order to respect the dignity, privacy and confidentiality of individuals. No one should have to request period products; they are discreetly and freely available.

Products will continue to be made available in all toilets (student and adult) with products will be available in each cubicle. In addition information posters detailing the availability

and location of free period products will continue to be displayed throughout the school premises.

Stock levels of each product type will be checked on a regular basis by the Period Dignity Key Contacts Mrs Colleen Canning, Mrs Roisin Rice and Student Leadership Team.

Products will be available whenever the premises are open.

The Arrangements – other details

Stock will be monitored by the Period Dignity Key Contacts, Mrs Colleen Canning, Mrs Roisin Rice with particular attention to expiry dates. Free period products available within St Mary's College will be procured via EA Procurement.

Publicising the Arrangements

In line with Departmental guidance and consultation, the availability and locations of free period products within St Mary's College will be advertised at pertinent points throughout the school premises, in order to respect the dignity, privacy and confidentiality of individuals. No one should have to request period products; they are discreetly and freely available. Relevant stakeholders will be made aware of the availability of free period products through posters, the school website and explicit direction by staff to students in form class, assemblies or workshops.