

## **Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021**

### **Statement on Exercise of Functions**

#### **Introduction**

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 came into effect on 15th August 2022. Section 2 of the Act places a duty on education providers to make period products obtainable free of charge on their premises during term time, in every building normally used by pupils and students.

Section 4 of the Act states that providers must ensure that products are obtainable, reasonably easily, and in a way that respects the dignity of the persons obtaining them. The Act also states that a reasonable choice of different types of period products should be obtainable.

The College has developed this statement in response to the duties set out in the Act, taking due regard of the specific guidance issued under Section 5 of the Act.

#### **Arrangements for the Provision of Period Products at Ayrshire College**

The College will ensure that sufficient period products are obtainable for free to meet the needs of students during term time. There is no limit to the amount of products an individual student can take and individuals don't need to provide a reason to access the products, above and beyond the fact that they menstruate.

The College makes no judgement as to the needs of students for products and understands that individual needs for period products can vary considerably due to the reason for the need arising, including:

- a) a period starting unexpectedly or forgetting to bring a product from home
- b) ongoing need due to low income
- c) ongoing need for another reason
- d) higher than average need due to a medical condition

Products will be freely accessible to all students including students with physical disabilities or mobility issues and products will be restocked regularly to meet student demand. Products will be available throughout the College in all College buildings.

Products will be obtainable in a way that respects the dignity of the people obtaining them. This means that students will not have to

- ask someone for products
- justify why they need them
- justify the amount needed

The College will ensure that a reasonable choice of different period products is available including at least one type of tampon, sanitary towel and reusable product.

## **Consultation, Planning and Review**

The College established a Short Life Working Group (SLWG) to oversee the provision of period products for students. The SLWG included key internal stakeholders from the Estates Team, Student Services, Finance and the Student Association.

The Student Association carried out a consultation with students about the types of period products that should be available and how and where these should be made obtainable to students. This consultation included discussions about reusable products and how to make products available to students during the Covid-19 pandemic. Consultation with students will be ongoing and the arrangements for making products available to students will be reviewed on a regular basis.

## **Environmental Impact**

The College recognises the considerable environmental impact of single use period products. In response, the College will consider the most appropriate way to make reusable period products available for free for those who wish to use those types of products.

## **Equality and Inclusion**

The College recognises that not everyone who menstruates identifies as female. Therefore, the College will ensure that any individual who menstruates, including transgender men and non-binary individuals, can access products.

In addition, in some cases men may wish to access products for free for family members or partners. The College fully supports this.

The College has made products available via an online portal to ensure accessibility and to support all modes of learning and teaching including remote learning.

## **Promotion of Free Period Products**

The College will promote the availability of free period products to students via the College website, social media channels and the MyAyrshire College app. In addition, the College and Student Association will promote period products to students at key times in the year including Induction, Fresher's and prior to holiday periods.

The College has produced posters which are visible throughout all campuses and has created plasma screen messages which are displayed at regular intervals to promote free period products. The Student Association also promote the products through regular communications with students and student forums.

## **Feedback and Further Information**

The College welcomes feedback on this statement. To provide feedback or for further information on any aspect of this statement, please contact:

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