

PERIOD PRODUCTS - STATEMENT ON EXERCISE OF FUNCTIONS

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 12th January 2021. The Act requires local authorities to ensure period products are provided free of charge to anyone who needs them during term time on their premises. It is the world's first legislation to make it mandatory for all public institutions to provide sanitary products for menstruation.

The Act states:

- Everyone in Scotland who menstruates should have reasonably convenient access to period products, free of charge, as and when required.
- We must make products reasonably easy to obtain, we must try to ensure dignity is preserved and respected and offer a reasonable choice of types of products.
- Recipients should not be required to ask for products, justify why they need them, or have any limit placed on the number of products recipients can receive. Colleges have a duty to make period products available free of charge for anyone who needs them, and in their role as education providers, make period products available at no cost in college buildings.

Colleges are also required to publish a Statement on how they will exercise their functions under the Act. The statement must be prepared in consultation with relevant individuals, groups, and organisations.

Newbattle Abbey College - Statement of Function

Current Provision

With the funding made available by Scottish Government, Newbattle Abbey College provides period products to all those who need them. The college ensures that:

- all period products are provided free of charge and reasonably easy to obtain, with a choice of products offered;
- products are available throughout the year excluding when buildings are closed;
- products are available for students to take home to ensure provision for holidays;
- Student consultation and engagement has been carried out to inform our provision;

- information on the scheme is communicated effectively; and
- provision is regularly monitored and reviewed.

Newbattle Abbey College has ensured there is no limit to the number of products a student can access. There is no requirement to ask for products and they are freely available to collect within toilets, Student Services areas, and other public areas. Cleaning staff monitor and refresh stock regularly. Posters and product displays are exhibited throughout the college. The service is promoted via our Student Representative Council, regular social media posts, and our Student Newsletter.

The college purchases from 'Hey Girls' www.heygirls.co.uk and students are encouraged to visit the site for updates on available products.

Consultation and Engagement

The distribution of free sanitary products was implemented within Newbattle Abbey College during academic year 2019/2020. Students were involved in a consultation in September 2018.

Newbattle Abbey College welcomes feedback and students are encouraged to contact to share their views or ask questions about this provision. We have set up an annual consultation with our students to ensure these views are shared.

Our Commitment

The college will continue to promote this service and include our students in consultation to evaluate uptake and performance to ensure we have the best option available to meet student needs.