

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 12th January 2021. The Act requires education providers to ensure period products (such as pads, tampons and reusable cups) can easily be picked up free of charge for anyone who needs to use them.

George Heriot's School Statement of Provision: Free Period Products

On the basis of funding being made available by the Scottish Government:

“We will strive to ensure that everyone in George Heriot's School who has a period will have convenient access to appropriate products free of charge, as and when they are required.”

We will do this by:

- consulting with pupils and staff to ensure we provide a breadth of products in all relevant locations around the school, and that access to those products maintains the dignity of those seeking them out.
- reviewing the levels of demand and supply to establish the strongest possible match between the two.
- ensuring that the products we provide are in keeping with our school focus on sustainability and the environment.
- providing information about what period products are available, where and how they can be obtained.

Consultation: initial conversations about providing free period products at Heriot's were instigated by the Senior School Pupil Council before the Scottish Government Act came into force. It was decided by pupils, and in agreement with the School Management Team, that a range of free period products would be placed in all female and gender-neutral toilets throughout the school (pupil and staff spaces). These products are clearly visible and accessible for anyone using those toilet spaces.

Provision: Heriot's provides a range of products, both single-use and reusable, in all female and gender-neutral toilets in the school. Whilst the school provides products in toilets usually used by Junior School pupils, tampons and menstrual cups are not included as part of the offering in this space due to the age of the pupils using them most regularly. All products are clearly displayed within the toilets for individuals to access freely. Instruction leaflets for tampons and menstrual cups are also included for pupils and staff to access.

Sustainability: The sanitary pads provided are plastic free and organic, the tampons are 100% organic cotton, and we also offer a reusable product in the form of a menstrual cup. The focus upon providing sustainable choices is a development since the original decision to make free period products available across the school campus.