



## **Our Asks-**

### **Here's what we'd like government to do to make period dignity a reality in UK Schools**

Every Period Counts is a youth led campaign, backed by 17 UK charities, demanding period dignity. To this end, they are asking Government for the following:

- Acknowledge that more needs to be done to tackle period poverty and shame in the UK schools and lay out an action plan for their next steps
- Provide an update on the future of the Period Poverty Taskforce, which has not met since before the pandemic and was allocated a £250,000 budget to develop long term solutions to this issue in the UK
- Legislate a long-term commitment to meet young people's right to Period Dignity in schools in England and Wales (in England the government had only committed to provide free period products in schools and colleges to the end of 2024)
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the current free period product scheme in England to understand barriers to effectiveness (particularly for types of school with low take up such as alternative provision, special schools and primary schools) and collate learning from free period product schemes in other parts of the UK to generate and action recommendations for improvements.
- Collect new data on current levels of menstrual related absenteeism in UK schools as part of the evaluation and continue to monitor this
- Amend guidance and policy on the scheme in England to address barriers, including to
  - set a stronger expectation that schools will use the scheme unless there is some good reason not to do so and explore making enrolment mandatory under certain conditions
  - set stronger expectations about schools making products accessible in stigma-free way
  - removing stigmatizing paragraph suggesting it's only for those in poverty
  - make reference to need for schools to allow children to go the toilet
  - Provide good practice examples of the product scheme working well
  - Encourage schools to provide education and broader support for periods alongside the free product scheme
- Extend commitment to the England scheme in terms of length of time, institutions covered and review how spending cap is calculated, with a view to increasing per school cap, particularly for primaries.
- Promote the England scheme to schools, particularly types of school and geographic areas with low take up
- Reverse the recent cuts to the budget for free period products in schools in Northern Ireland
- Collect Office for National Statistics (ONS) data on spending on period products
- Ofsted (and equivalent) to review of extent, nature and effectiveness of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), particularly with regard to its effectiveness in tackling menstrual education.
- Central government to invest in Relationships, RSHE training and resources, particularly to promote good practice for menstrual education.