



June 2018

Dear Head Teacher

Re: Girls missing school because they can't afford sanitary products

A survey by Plan International UK published in October 2017 found that 10% of girls have been unable to afford sanitary products with 7% forced to skip school during their period. This equates to more than 137,700 girls missing school in the last year.

In an attempt to avoid such a situation, 6 per cent of parents admit they have been so desperate to equip their daughters with sanitary protection they have resorted to stealing on the occasions they couldn't afford to buy them. More than a fifth of parents said they had gone without something themselves so they had enough money to meet their daughter's needs. Many teachers are aware of some children being unable to afford protection for their period and have resorted to supplying students with pads or tampons from their own handbags to try and help.

Soroptimist International Solihull & District is a member club of Soroptimist International, a global volunteer movement working to transform the lives of women and girls. We care passionately about the education of girls as it transforms their lives and we want to end Period Poverty in Solihull.

First we must understand the scale of the problem in Solihull MBC both in terms of numbers of girls affected by and their location within the Borough. Once we have gathered these facts we will work with suppliers of sanitary wear and the schools to ensure no girl misses school due to Period Poverty.

We would be very grateful if you could help us in this first step by providing answers to the questions on the attached sheet.

We look forward to working with you.

Mrs H Ross

On behalf of

Soroptimist International Solihull & District