

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

General Mills introduces new parental leave policy for UK and Ireland employees

General Mills, the global food company, is giving new parents a giant assist. The business has announced that employees – regardless of gender, type of relationship, or how they became parents – will now be eligible for 26 weeks of paid leave and will retain pension contributions for the entirety of their leave.

Strengthening the support of parents returning to work, General Mills is also investing in external coaching for employees to help with the transition to parenthood, and back into the workplace.

The ambitious move is part of its efforts to create a fully inclusive and diverse workforce and to ensure parents are not adversely financially impacted in the long-term due to the very important role of having children.

The new policy was first rolled out in the UK and Ireland this month.

Ben Pearman, Managing Director of General Mills UK and Ireland, said: “We are committed to changing the conversation in this space. Our new policy is a thoughtful approach to ensure we are more inclusive, especially when it comes to real actions to improve aspects of gender pay equity such as pension differences.

“By investing in external coaching, we hope to help our employees have the positive experience that having a child deserves to be.

“It’s important that we show our commitment and leadership with progressive employment policies that support equality and inclusion in the workplace.”

-ENDS-

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About General Mills

Founded in 1866, General Mills is a leading global food company that serves the world by making food people love. Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, General Mills had fiscal 2018 worldwide sales of US \$16.8 billion including the company's US \$1.1 billion proportionate of joint-venture net sales.

General Mills UK is an award-winning employer that markets and distributes a number of much-loved consumer brands – including Häagen-Dazs, Old El Paso, Nature Valley, Green Giant, Betty Crocker, Fibre One and Jus-Rol pastry. Yoplait UK is an affiliate of General Mills and is responsible for major brands such as Petits Filous and Liberté.