



# St Fergal's College

## Attendance Strategy

## Contents

1. Policy Statement.....	3
2. Aims and Objectives.....	3
3. Whole-School Strategy.....	3
3.1 Attendance Champions Leaderboard.....	3
4. Class-Level Strategy .....	3
4.1 Class Attendance Challenge .....	3
5. Individual-Level Strategy .....	4
5.1 Recognition and Rewards .....	4
6. Student and Staff Engagement .....	4
6.1 Student Involvement.....	4
7. Data Tracking and Visualisation.....	4
7.1 Attendance Data Display .....	4
8. Context and Statistics.....	4
9. Review and Policy Evaluation.....	5
Ratified by the Board of Management.....	5

## **1. Policy Statement**

St. Fergal's College is committed to promoting positive school attendance as a key factor in students' academic achievement, well-being, and personal development. The "Raise the Bar" Attendance Drive aims to improve attendance across all year groups through positive reinforcement, student engagement, and creative initiatives. This initiative forms part of the school's School Self-Evaluation (SSE) and School Improvement Plan (SIP), following recommendations identified in recent school inspections.

## **2. Aims and Objectives**

The aims of the Raise the Bar initiative are to:

- Encourage consistent student attendance and punctuality.
- Promote a culture where good attendance is recognised, rewarded, and celebrated.
- Increase student awareness of the importance of attendance through engaging activities.
- Involve the whole school community, students, staff, and parents, in supporting attendance improvement.

## **3. Whole-School Strategy**

### **3.1 Attendance Champions Leaderboard**

- A Monthly Attendance Champions Leaderboard will be displayed in school corridors, showcasing the top-performing classes in each year group.
- Term rewards for winning classes may include: selection boxes, pizza parties, and discounted school trips.

### **3.2 Whole-School Art & Media Campaign**

- An Attendance Art and Digital Media Competition will be run across all year groups.
- Digital Media students and art classes will design posters and digital displays promoting the value of good attendance.
- Winning entries will be displayed throughout the school and online.

## **4. Class-Level Strategy**

### **4.1 Class Attendance Challenge**

- Each year group will participate in the "Raise the Bar – Class Attendance Challenge."
- Tutors will collaborate with Year Heads to monitor attendance and promote participation.
- The winning class each month will receive a Class Pass (e.g. one night of no homework) or another suitable reward.
- A class leaderboard will be maintained to track progress and encourage friendly competition.

## **5. Individual-Level Strategy**

### **5.1 Recognition and Rewards**

- Students will receive +2 VSware points for maintaining perfect attendance and punctuality over a two-week period.
- Students achieving six consecutive weeks of perfect attendance will be entered into a raffle for small prizes such as stationery or vouchers.
- Rewards will be distributed term by term, based on thresholds agreed by the Senior and Middle Management Teams (SMT & MMT).

### **5.2 End-of-Year Awards**

- Students demonstrating outstanding attendance throughout the school year will be recognised at the End-of-Year Awards Ceremony.

## **6. Student and Staff Engagement**

### **6.1 Student Involvement**

- The Student Council and Prefect Team will assist in managing notice boards, updating attendance displays, and coordinating social media posts promoting attendance.
- Student leaders will also contribute to creative campaigns and announcements.

### **6.2 Teacher Participation**

- Staff will take part in a motivational video campaign highlighting the importance of regular attendance.
- Weekly social media posts and school TV updates will feature positive quotes, attendance statistics, and class and individual achievements.

## **7. Data Tracking and Visualisation**

### **7.1 Attendance Data Display**

- A “Raise the Bar – “Monthly Data Visual Board” will be located in the school lobby.
- This will include a thermometer-style visual showing attendance rates using a cold-to-warm colour scale and real-time updates.

### **7.2 Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Attendance data will be analysed weekly and reviewed termly through VSware reports.
- Year Heads will monitor trends and target supports where needed.

## **8. Context and Statistics**

### **National Attendance Statistics**

- Over 1 in 5 students in Ireland miss a month or more of school each year.
- On average, 11.9% of school days are missed nationally, equating to approximately 20

days per student annually.

St. Fergal's College 2024/2025 Data (as of mid-year analysis)

- 11.9% of school days missed.
- Average of 20 days per student.
- 335 periods per academic year.

## 9. Review and Policy Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the School Self-Evaluation process. Data outcomes, student feedback, and teacher input will inform revisions to ensure the initiative continues to be effective and engaging.

## Ratified

Reviewed by staff:	Date:
Reviewed by students:	Date:
Approved by BOM Chairperson:	Date: