

School Attendance-Strategies to encourage attendance

1. Information evening with parents of incoming 1st years stressing the importance of attendance.
2. Student Support Structure of Year Head and Tutor to provide support for students with issues / concerns
3. Part of Code of Behaviour that students and parents agree that attendance is essential
4. A variety of educational programmes to suit the differing needs of students
5. An excellent learning support programme
6. Active anti-bullying policy
7. After School Study
8. Book Rental Scheme for Junior Cycle
9. Registration each morning, meeting Tutor in the same room
10. Emphasis on good attendance in registration class and all subjects
11. Monitoring of attendance
 - Roll call morning and afternoon
 - Each teacher takes roll at start of class
 - Notes must be provided on return from absences
 - Notifying of high level / a pattern of absences to Tutor – calls home and inform Year Head
 - Text message home if absent each day
 - The Deputy Principal acts as the Attendance officer and will review absenteeism and contact parents
12. Endeavour Award system in place to encourage positive engagement with school
13. Awards for attendance given at annual award ceremony.
14. Meeting with Students/Tutor/Year Head if concerns arise over level of absenteeism
15. Referral to Guidance Counsellor and /or Chaplain and / or Deputy Principal
16. Meeting with Parents
17. Breakfast Club / School Meals Programmes/Extra –curricular activities including sports.
18. Buddy Programme for 1st years to support them in their transition
19. Encourage students to get involved in extra-curricular i.e. sport and in turn encourage attendance.
20. Students attendance / lates / sign outs summarised each month for Year Head who will meet with students who have a high level of absence, lates etc.
21. Communication on an on-going basis with parents, year head, tutor, subject teacher, student and senior management.

At all times, St Aidan's staff stress the importance of attendance and the impact of non-attendance on performance in in-school assessments and in particular in the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate state examinations. (*Appendix 4*)