

St. Fergal's College

Cookie Policy

Rathdowney, Co. Laois | admin@sfc.ie | +353 (505) 46 357

Effective Date: June 2026 | Last Reviewed: June 2026

1. What Are Cookies?

Cookies are small text files placed on your device (computer, tablet, or smartphone) when you visit a website. They are widely used to make websites work more efficiently and to provide information to website owners about how their site is being used.

This Cookie Policy explains what cookies we use on **stfergalscollege.com**, why we use them, and how you can control them.

2. Our Website and Cookies

Our website is built on WordPress and uses cookies for the following purposes: to keep the site functioning correctly, to remember your cookie preferences, and to gather anonymous analytics data that helps us understand how visitors use the site and how we can improve it.

3. Cookies We Use

Cookie Name	Type	Provider	Purpose	Duration
wordpress_test	Strictly Necessary	WordPress	Tests whether the browser accepts cookies	Session
wp-settings-{user}	Strictly Necessary	WordPress	Stores user interface preferences for the admin panel (staff only)	1 year
GDPR Cookie Consent	Strictly Necessary	This site	Saves your cookie consent preferences	1 year
_ga	Analytics (3rd Party)	Google Analytics	Distinguishes unique users; used to calculate visitor, session, and page usage trends	2 years
_gid	Analytics (3rd Party)	Google Analytics	Distinguishes users; stores and updates a value for each page visited	24 hours
_gat	Analytics (3rd Party)	Google Analytics	Used to throttle request rate to Google Analytics	1 minute

4. Strictly Necessary Cookies

Strictly necessary cookies are essential for the website to function and cannot be disabled. They do not store any personally identifiable information and are not used for tracking or marketing purposes. Under

Irish law and ePrivacy Regulations, consent is not required for strictly necessary cookies.

5. Analytics Cookies (Google Analytics)

We use **Google Analytics**, a web analytics service provided by Google LLC, to help us understand how visitors interact with our website. These cookies collect information in an anonymous form, including the number of visitors, where visitors have come from, and the pages they visited.

We have configured Google Analytics with IP anonymisation enabled, meaning full IP addresses are never stored. The data is aggregated and cannot be used to identify individual visitors.

Analytics cookies are only placed on your device if you **Accept** cookies via our cookie consent banner. You may opt out at any time by selecting **Reject** or visiting your cookie settings.

For more information, see Google's Privacy Policy at <https://policies.google.com/privacy>.

6. Managing and Controlling Cookies

You have several options for managing cookies:

Cookie Consent Banner

When you first visit our website, a cookie consent banner will appear. You can choose to Accept all cookies, Reject non-essential cookies, or customise your preferences via Settings. You can change your preferences at any time by clicking the cookie settings link in our website footer.

Browser Settings

Most web browsers allow you to control cookies through their settings. You can set your browser to refuse cookies or delete existing cookies. Please note that disabling cookies may affect the functionality of our website.

- Google Chrome: Settings > Privacy and Security > Cookies and other site data
- Mozilla Firefox: Options > Privacy & Security > Cookies and Site Data
- Safari: Preferences > Privacy > Cookies and website data
- Microsoft Edge: Settings > Cookies and site permissions

Google Analytics Opt-Out

You can prevent Google Analytics from collecting data about your visit by installing the **Google Analytics Opt-out Browser Add-on**, available at <https://tools.google.com/dlpage/gaoptout>.

7. Third-Party Links

Our website may contain links to third-party websites, including social media platforms (Facebook, X/Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok) and VSware. These third-party sites have their own privacy and cookie policies, and we have no control over their use of cookies. We recommend reviewing their policies before interacting with them.

8. Updates to This Cookie Policy

We may update this Cookie Policy periodically to reflect changes in technology, legislation, or our website practices. The current version will always be available on our website at stfergalscollege.com. The 'Last Reviewed' date at the top of this document will be updated accordingly.

9. Contact Us

If you have any questions about our use of cookies or this Cookie Policy, please contact:

St. Fergal's College

Rathdowney, Co. Laois

Email: admin@stfc.ie

Phone: +353 (505) 46 357