

What is the Edmund Rice Schools Trust?

In 2008, the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST) was established to take responsibility for schools formerly owned and managed by the congregation of Christian Brothers of Ireland. As Trustees, ERST undertakes to develop and maintain the long established ethos of these schools, as inspired by the vision of Edmund Rice and expressed in the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Charter. The Trust also assumes responsibility for issues relating to governance, finance and property.

The Trust provides a wide range of supports for all school personnel, including opportunities for sharing and networking among Principals, Deputy Principals, Chairpersons, RE teachers, Student Councils etc.

Today, ERST plays an active part in the worldwide network of Edmund Rice Schools through engagement with the organisation Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders.

Edmund Rice Schools - The Global Family

No. of Schools across the world

Ireland 96	New Zealand 5
N. Ireland 9	India 22
England 12	Zambia 12
N America 15	W Africa 4
S America 5	E Africa 5
Australia 78	S Africa 9

The Edmund Rice Schools Trust
Áras Éamainn Rís
Meadow Vale, Clonkeen Road
Blackrock, Co. Dublin
Tel: (01) 289 7511
email: reception@erst.ie
www.erst.ie

The Story of Edmund

Edmund Rice was born in Callan Co. Kilkenny in 1762. By the age of 27 he had become a very successful and wealthy business man. However, his world fell apart when his wife Mary died tragically after a short few years of marriage leaving him to care for their special needs daughter.

This proved to be a life changing event for Edmund. Being a religious man of social conscience, he began to devote his time and wealth to the service of the poor. Gradually he was drawn to the plight of the poverty stricken, hungry gangs of young boys who roamed the streets of Waterford. Being convinced that education was the key to providing dignity to the poor, he, along with two companions, opened a school in a converted stable in 1802. Here, young vagrants were educated and provided with food and clothing from the attached bakery and tailor's shop.

Edmund and his companions later took religious vows and the congregation of the Christian Brothers of Ireland was formed. The success of the first school at Mount Sion in Waterford led to schools being opened in other parts of the country. Within a short time schools were opened in Carrick on Suir, Dungarvan, Cork, Limerick and Dublin. Today, there are about 272 Edmund Rice schools worldwide. Edmund died in 1844, aged 82 years. In 1996, he was beatified by Pope John Paul II, becoming Blessed Edmund Rice.



The Edmund Rice School



A Guide for Parents

"Have courage, the good seed will grow in the children's heart"



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust

What is an Edmund Rice school?

Your Edmund Rice School belongs to a worldwide network of schools inspired by the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice. It is a Catholic school committed to the teachings of Jesus Christ, while promoting equality of access and participation to children of all faiths, and none, at every level of ability and of any nationality or ethnic grouping.

All our schools recognise the uniqueness of each individual in caring communities where holistic development is nurtured. A broad and holistic educational programme will promote the academic, physical, spiritual, moral, cultural and aesthetic development of our students. A strong sense of social justice, concern for the marginalised and care for the environment will be fostered.

Inspired by the Five Key Elements of our Charter we aim to form responsible citizens who will become inspiring leaders for future generations.

Your role as Parents

As a Parent we encourage you to:

- ◇ Take an active interest in your child's education
- ◇ Become involved in your school
- ◇ Join the Parents' Association
- ◇ When the opportunity arises you may put your name forward for selection as a parent nominee for the Board of Management.
- ◇ Keep in regular communication with the school and the teachers.
- ◇ Support extra curricular and

The Five Key Elements of the Charter

Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel based values

The Edmund Rice School, in partnership with the home and the parish, is dedicated to providing and developing a Catholic education that cultivates a living faith, fosters Christian spirituality and cherishes Gospel based values. While promotion of the Christian ethos permeates the school, students of other faiths are welcomed and encouraged to grow in their own faith or religious practice. In this way we celebrate the richness and diversity of the school community.

Promoting partnership in the school community

Inclusiveness, mutual respect and interdependence on each other are recognised as central to the development of the Edmund Rice School. Because parents/guardians are the primary educators of their children they are seen as key partners in the school community. Likewise, students are always encouraged to take leadership and responsibility and as such their voice is listened to. Partnership enables the Edmund Rice School Community – management, parents, teachers, students, support staff, - to grow in a shared, collegial vision of education, giving all involved a real sense of ownership of their school.

Excelling in teaching and learning

The Edmund Rice School is characterised by inspiring, purposeful and innovative teaching in an orderly, safe and positive learning environment. High expectations are set and students are enabled to attain excellence in all dimensions of their education. Recognising the uniqueness of each child means that they can grow through educational processes that are sensitive to their developmental stages and their social and cultural backgrounds.

Creating a caring school community

The Edmund Rice School fosters in its members a sense of care, compassion and community. These values are reflected in the quality of relationships between all the school partners and in every interaction within the school and with outside agencies and communities. Commitment to social and ecological justice will be promoted, encouraged and developed within the school.

Inspiring transformational leadership

The Edmund Rice School is an inspirational place where all partners are encouraged to take ownership and exercise leadership. Our school leaders articulate a vision for their schools in keeping with the Edmund Rice tradition. They inspire minds and hearts, raise critical consciousness and cultivate a strong work ethic coupled with an enterprising spirit. Teachers, students and parents are encouraged to act as role models and provide leadership by inspiring confidence, gaining acceptance and bringing people with them to a better future.

Vision: Promoting full personal and social development in caring Christian Communities of learning and teaching.

Mission: To provide Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition

