# Edmund Rice Secondary School Galway

**Enrolment**: 270 boys + 210 girls = 480 students

**Building:** New extension added in 2015. Plenty of rooms and facilities for our students.

**Students:** Mixed ability. 2 ASD classes of 6 students each.

**Location:** Centre of high population. Close to an ETB school that is growing (600 students)

**Profile:** 82% of students go to third-level education. 26% of students come from families with a medical card. 22% of students have AEN and receive learning support.

**Staff:** 30 teachers, 5 SNAs, 1 secretary and 1 caretaker.

A **Needs Analysis** conducted as part of the appointment process showed the following:

* Student behaviour needs to be addressed in and around the school. This is probably the main reason that numbers are falling (was 674 students in 2013)
* The curriculum needs to be reviewed as we have an increasing number of weaker students and much fewer bright students. This includes investigating the introduction of L1 and L2 Learning Programmes at JC and the LCA at Senior Cycle.
* Transition Year needs to be reviewed and updated as it has remained the same for the past 15 years and has gone stale.
* Students need to become more motivated.
* Teachers need to raise expectations of their students.
* We need to get more teachers involved in extra-curricular activities.
* Students are generally happy in school – perhaps too happy! They need to push themselves a lot more.
* There is a feeling that we have been left behind when the JC was introduced as most of us have not got to grips with the new methodologies. The last subject inspection stated that teachers need to become familiar with Formative Assessment techniques.
* The staff get on really well with each other. We have fantastic nights out. The teachers in the school near us are always complaining about being stressed but, thankfully, we are not in that position.
* There is not enough emphasis on the fact that we are a Catholic school.