



## Your School, Our World

Your school is an Edmund Rice School, which is under the trusteeship of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST).

As a member of our network, your school is part of a modern community rooted in 200 years of tradition. Together, we comprise 98 primary and secondary schools across Ireland, working every day to inspire and guide over 37,000 pupils from a diversity of backgrounds and cultures.

Your school is also part of one of the world's largest and most diverse education networks. The Edmund Rice Schools Trust combines a global community of over 170,000 students in nearly 280 schools across the five continents.

Every day, we are learning, listening, sharing and striving to make sure that all of our schools – including your school – are doing everything they can to help children to thrive and reach their potential.

## A Network Built On Agreed Values and Principles

All of our schools promote equality of access and participation. We are rooted in a Catholic tradition and we welcome children of all faiths, and none. There is a place for children of every ability, nationality, culture and ethnic group.

Our guiding principles of equality, respect, fairness and spirituality are laid down in the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Charter. Here are five ways that our Charter shapes the experiences of your children while they are at school, and into the future:

- 1 We are committed to keeping Irish education open and accessible**  
ERST is committed to ensuring that Irish education remains accessible and inclusive. Building on our Catholic Edmund Rice tradition we celebrate diversity and value difference. It's what unifies us.
- 2 We treat everyone equally**  
All students and potential students are treated equally, with fairness and dignity. An awareness of social issues and action for social justice influences everything we do.
- 3 We care for all abilities and talents**

We are dedicated to supporting inspired and innovative teaching that brings out the best in all students. Children with learning difficulties and special needs are welcomed and supported in a caring and encouraging environment.

- 4 We help our pupils to be great people**  
We have high expectations for students in all of our schools, not just academically, but in their potential to be well-rounded, active citizens, innovators and leaders.
- 5 We prepare young citizens for a connected world**  
ERST encourages students to be aware of their surroundings and of the impact of their activities and decisions on the lives of others, particularly those less fortunate both locally and globally.



5

Inspiring transformational leadership

## 5 Guiding Principles

The Edmund Rice Charter sets out five core principles. Together we are dedicated to:



1

Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values



2

Promoting partnership in the school community



3

Excelling in teaching and learning



4

Creating a caring school community

**Edmund Rice Schools:**  
**170,000 pupils worldwide**  
**37,000 pupils in Ireland**  
**98 schools in Ireland**  
**280 schools globally**

## Edmund Rice – A Lasting Legacy



The legacy of Blessed Edmund Rice informs our principles.

Edmund Rice was born in Callan, Co. Kilkenny in 1762. By his twenties he had become a wealthy and successful businessman. However, tragedy struck when his young wife died, leaving him to care for their daughter. This proved to be a life changing event. As a deeply religious man, he began to devote his time and wealth to the service of the poor. In 1802, he founded his first school in Waterford City, because of his deep concern for the practical, spiritual and educational welfare of children living in abject poverty.

Edmund and his colleagues later took religious vows and the Congregation of the Christian Brothers of Ireland was formed. He died at the age of 82 in 1844. In 1996, he was beatified by Pope John Paul II, becoming Blessed Edmund Rice.



## About The Edmund Rice Schools Trust

In 2008, the Edmund Rice Schools Trust was established to take responsibility for schools formerly owned and managed by the congregation of Christian Brothers of Ireland.

As trustees, ERST develops and maintains the long established ethos and heritage of these schools, while all the time welcoming new schools into our national and global network. We promote the principles of Catholic education in the context of today's world.

All of our actions are guided by the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Charter, which was developed in consultation with our schools.

### We provide a wide range of supports to schools, including:

- Advice and support for Boards of Management
- Guidance and development opportunities for principals and deputy-principals
- Advice and support for principals, deputy-principals and teachers
- Opportunities for teachers to network and share good practice

The Trust promotes best practice in relation to ethos, governance, finance and property. We also play a key role in advocating on behalf of our schools.

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Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís  
 Edmund Rice Schools Trust



**Edmund Rice Schools Trust**  
**YOUR SCHOOL**  
**YOUR TRUST**  
**OUR PURPOSE**



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