

Parent Council in an Edmund Rice School

January 2024.



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust

Edmund Rice Prayer

O God, we thank you for the life of Blessed Edmund Rice.

He opened his heart to Christ present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice.

May we follow his example of faith and generosity.

Grant us the courage and compassion of Blessed Edmund as we seek to live lives of love and service.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen



Catholic Schools Week 2024, 21-28 January



The Edmund Rice Schools Trust

The Edmund Rice Schools Trust is the trustee of 96 schools, both primary and secondary, in the Republic of Ireland. These 96 schools include schools which were formerly under the trusteeship of the Christian Brothers, schools that have come into our trusteeship and new schools that we have established in recent years. We will be willing to provide patronage of new schools in an area where there is a need for Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition.

Parent Council in an Edmund Rice School



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Edmund Rice Schools Trust Charter

5 Key Elements of Our Charter

Edmund Rice schools cater for young people from a diverse range of backgrounds and have been quick to respond to the emerging needs of students and communities.

The educational approach in these schools subscribes to the holistic vision expressed in the following five key elements:

1

Nurturing faith, Christian Spirituality and Gospel-based values

3

Excelling in Teaching and Learning

4

Creating a Caring School Community

2

Promoting Partnership

5

Inspiring Transformational Leadership



The Edmund Rice School



Group Chat

Introduce yourself to group

Introduce your school

- Boys, Girls, Mixed
- Primary, secondary
- Enrolment

The Edmund Rice Global Network

Ireland	96
N Ireland	9
England	12
N America	18
S America	5
Australia	78
New Zealand	5
India	22

Zambia	12
W Africa	4
E Africa	5
S Africa	9



Who was Edmund?

A wealthy businessman

Following a personal tragedy he changed direction of his life

Opened a school for poor boys in Mount Sion, Waterford in 1802

Founded an order of Religious Brothers

Edmund died 1844.

Schools opened in Carrick on Suir, Dungarvan, Cork, Dublin, Limerick

Edmund's Brothers opened schools all around Ireland and the World.

In 1996, Edmund Rice was beatified by Pope John Paul 11 becoming Blessed Edmund.

What date was your school founded?

What did Edmund stand for...?

- **The right to dignity**
- **Care for those who are disadvantaged**
- **Opposition to poverty**
- **Importance of Education**
- **Commitment to Jesus Christ**





1

Nurturing Faith, Christian Spirituality and Gospel-based Values



An Edmund Rice School

Promoting Partnership in the School Community

2

An Edmund Rice School:

Recognises the value of partnership

The Edmund Rice School is a welcoming community, where people are actively involved, their views are valued and their contribution is affirmed as they learn and grow together. Working together as partners improves the quality and effectiveness of the school. A spirit of partnership makes it easier to implement decisions and actions needed to achieve excellence.

Works in partnership with parents/guardians

Because parents/guardians have the primary responsibility for the education of their children, they are key partners in the school community. Regular consultation and communication between schools and parents/guardians, active participation of parents/guardians in their child's education and involvement in specific school activities are all crucial to establishing effective home, school and community links.

Seeks to build community

Community lives and grows where people share a common vision and mission, feel they belong, are allowed to contribute, are recognised and consulted and have a say in determining their direction. Partnership enables the Edmund Rice School – management, parents, teachers, support staff and students – to grow in a shared, collegial vision of education, giving all involved a real sense that the school 'belongs' to them.





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The lay catholic educator is a person who exercises a specific mission in the Church... To this lay person, as a member of this community, the family and the Church entrust the school's educational endeavour... Lay teachers must be profoundly convinced that they share in the sanctifying, and therefore educational mission of the Church... Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education.

Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith, 24. (1982)

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Excelling in Teaching and Learning

3



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The Edmund Rice School is a community of people dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in all its endeavours and in all aspects of its teaching and learning.

In fulfilling her mission on behalf of the human family, the Church is a willing partner in that deep and respectful dialogue between science and faith which makes us all servants of the truth which sets us free.

Pope John Paul II to members of the American Philosophical Society and the Italian 'Accademia dei Lincei', 21 May 1996.

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Creating a Caring School Community

4

An Edmund Rice School:

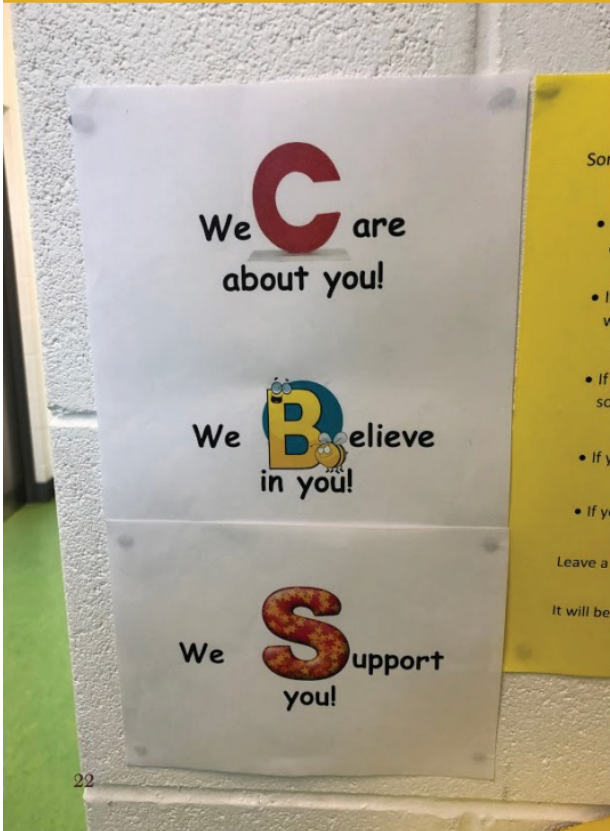
Develops a sense of community

The Edmund Rice School fosters in its members the sense of care, compassion and community that characterised Jesus' life. These values are reflected in the quality of relationships between all the school partners, and in every interaction between the school and outside agencies and communities.

Identifies and serves the needs of students

The Edmund Rice School recognises the uniqueness of each individual. It identifies the educational needs of each student and puts in place appropriate resources, curricula, programmes and methodologies to enable everyone to achieve his/her full potential. Gifted children and students with learning difficulties in a particular subject are supported, while students with other special educational needs are welcomed and provided with special assistance in so far as is practicable. There is breadth and balance in the curriculum, while an extensive range of extra-curricular activities encourages participation and positive relationships, a healthy lifestyle and the holistic development of the person.

The hallmarks of an Edmund Rice school are care, especially for those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged in any way, and action for social and ecological justice.





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Were you to know the merit and value of only going from one street to another to serve a neighbour for the love of God, we should prize it more than silver and gold.

Blessed Edmund Rice

”

5

Inspiring Transformational Leadership

“

This is what Yahweh asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

”

An Edmund Rice School



Group Chat

What has been working well for your Council/Association?

Any achievements you would like to share?

Plans for remainder of school year

Number of active members – is it easy to get parents involved?

Purpose of a Parent Council



Conduit between the school and parents

Inform parents about roles, responsibilities, school policies, curriculum and governance structures

Encourage dialogue with BOM and others

Ensure parents are represented in the school's development and decision-making

Promote professional development among parents

What works?



Clear definition of role and understanding of BOM's role

Partnership approach – Student Council, Staff, BOM

Professional approach, adhering to established protocols

Trusting relationships and integrity

Good communications – between the school and the Council and between the Council and the parent body

Parents' Associations are not...



Solely a fundraising organisation.

A complaints' forum for gripes against teaching staff.

A tea and biscuit making committee.

A chat forum for the disgruntled.

An exercise to do the bidding of the principal.

Practical Ways of Being Involved in Your School



Role in the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and other policy development and review

Meeting the Student Council, the Staff and Board of Management to share agendas and develop a partnership approach

Assist with mock interviews, work placements or Career Fairs

Assistance at concerts/dramas/talent shows/sports events

Possible role in Book Sale/Book Lending

Fundraising for a specific project – development of a Prayer Room, library, garden, other infrastructural development

Parent Information Nights

Practical Ways of Being Involved in Your School



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- Student Achievement – Awards Day/Evening.
- Have a presence at Open Night or other promotional nights
- Parent Nights – guest speakers or internal
- Create a Newsletter to be circulated to parents by email or from the school's website
- Decide on a project that can be 'seen' in the school for years to come
- Celebrate successes
- Develop links with local media

Communications

A Parent Council page on the school's website with a specific email address at the school's domain for the council secretary

BOM agreed report circulated to parents as well as the agenda & report from Parent Council meetings

Interactions with Student Council

Interactions with staff



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