5.1 **Outline ONE example of how and where you have protected and promoted the stated characteristic spirit of your school**.

The characteristic spirit of Edmund Rice College is reflected in the way we live out our Christian ethos in the school. Every student is valued equally and given a genuine experience of belonging, whether or not they are Catholics. Our school is committed to the moral, social and spiritual development of each student and all students are encouraged to strive for excellence in all areas of life and use their talents in the service of God and of the school and local community.

I have promoted this catholic ethos is in the area of charity work.In 2017, I took a school group on an Immersion Project that involved a visit to Kolkata. The group comprised 9 teachers and 12 senior students and the trip lasted for 12 days. We volunteered at Mother Theresa’s Hospice in the mornings, caring for people who were in their final days on this earth. It was a very humbling experience. In the afternoons, we worked at a school for destitute children that had been set up by the Christian Brothers.

During this experience, the students and teachers became engrossed in the communities; we gained a deep understanding of the day-to-day challenges facing many young children in Kolkata. We encountered victims of poverty and injustices. On return from the immersion project, I was aware of the strong connection both the teachers and the students had formed with the project.

In keeping with Edmund Rice’s beliefs, we wanted to share our story with the wider school community, particularly with other students, who one day might travel to Kolkata. Upon our return to school, we discussed how we could share our experiences. We put together a short presentation which the students presented to each class group during religion classes. As part of the presentation, students shared their own stories; they talked about the children, they showed pictures of them and where they lived.

The Immersion project continues to be promoted to the whole school community, the school runs numerous fundraising initiative and awareness campaigns. Every two years students and teachers have continued to visit Kolkata to work on various projects including building and maintenance work which has seen a full primary school developed over the last 8 years.