

Coláiste Éanna  
An Edmund Rice School

# A Guide for Parents



*Striving for Excellence*



Thank you for choosing to send your son to our school. We are conscious that you are giving us the great responsibility and privilege of educating that which is most precious to you. We will do our utmost to offer your son all the opportunities that we have at our disposal to help your young person deal with the challenges and opportunities he may encounter as he navigates his way through this exciting stage of his journey to adulthood.

Ours is a Catholic school, committed to the teachings of Jesus Christ. We embrace these teachings 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 group. We are linked to over 100 schools in Ireland and 170 schools worldwide.

Our school, and your school, is supported and guided by the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Charter which contains five key elements.



# The Edmund Rice Schools' Charter

## **Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel based values**

We believe that every person, be they Catholic, Protestant, Moslem or atheist is created in the image and likeness of God and therefore deserves nothing but the very best and we aim to give nothing but the very best for your son. We also aim to offer opportunities for all to reflect on the spiritual dimension of their lives.

## **Promoting partnership in the school Community**

In your school we strive for inclusiveness, mutual respect and interdependence through all the component parts of the school and we believe in working in partnership with all the school community. In this way the management, parents, teachers, students and support staff all grow in a shared, collegial vision of the education offered to your son.

## **Excelling in teaching and learning**

We all want the very best for our children and in our contemporary society and economy this is expressed though high academic achievement. We are very proud of the really strong tradition of success in Christian Brother schools. International research shows that Catholic schools rank amongst the highest in exam results. We are confident and gratified that we will journey with your son to help him achieve his potential based on his academic and intellectual ability. We are also proud of our tradition

of inclusivity; we welcome children of all abilities, offer learning support to those who need it and strive to bring out the very best in all students which in many cases cannot be reflected in exam results.

## **Creating a caring school community**

Every child is entitled to be happy as they come to school and to enjoy being in school. However for some young people their school days are challenging because of ill health or difficult family circumstances. Some may be vulnerable, some may be prey to bullying behaviour and some may be sad due to bereavement or separation. Commanded by our Christian tradition and mandated by our common humanity we aim to have care and respect for others at the heart of our school.

## **Transformative leadership**

Edmund Rice schools encourage and embolden transformative leadership; they are staffed by people who are motivated by a desire to benefit the school community and to inspire others to change expectations, perceptions, motivations and to work towards common goals. This is what we expect of all our leaders and followers. This includes those in obvious leadership roles such as the principal and teachers but also students as they engage in the many academic and extra- curricular activities in the school. Unlike 'transactional leadership' which is based on 'give and take' transformational leadership is solely for the good of others.

# How can parents help to ignite these five principles in our school community?

## Be a great parent

Great parents help to make great schools. It can be a difficult job at times and unlike the teachers in school you cannot hand over the care of your child at 4pm! Embrace your child often and never be afraid to set boundaries. Despite what you might think young people value order and routine.

## Get to know other parents

This too can be difficult as secondary schools do not have the 'school gate pick-up' of primary schools. One way to meet other parents is to get to know the parents of your child's friends (though your teenager might not like this!), support your son's sports team or chat with as many parents as possible at Parent Teacher meetings. The best way to get to know other parents is to attend Parent Association meetings.

## Get involved formally with the school

Offer to coach or manage sports or extracurricular activities in the school. Put your name forward to act on the Parents Association committee or put your name forward for the Board of Management.



# Who is Edmund Rice?

Edmund Rice opened his first school in Waterford in 1802 and went on to establish the Christian Brothers. He was from a wealthy family and became a very successful businessman. His life changed when his wife died leaving him to raise a daughter with profound special needs. He decided to abandon his wealthy past and follow a religious life living in a monastic community. By the time of his death in 1844 the Christian Brothers had established schools in many towns and cities in Ireland and by the end of the century there were Christian Brother's schools on all five continents. Pope John Paul II beatified Edmund in 1996.

## The Edmund Rice Schools Trust

In 2008 the Christian Brothers in Ireland handed over ownership of their schools to a new trust run by lay people. The Trust, known as ERST, undertakes to develop and maintain the long established ethos of these schools by assuming responsibility for issues relating to governance, finance and property. The Trust maintains a very active website which is rich source of information on their many activities ([www.erst.ie](http://www.erst.ie)).

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