



RICE COLLEGE ENNIS

(An Edmund Rice School)

PROSPECTUS 2021/2022

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Mission Statement

Rice College is an Edmund Rice School. It is a voluntary co-educational secondary school. It operates according to the religious and educational philosophy of the Edmund Rice School Trust (ERST). At Rice College, we strive to live up to Christian values and show genuine concern for our school community. Our core aims are to provide a broad and comprehensive education; to recognise the needs and to develop the talents of each person. We strive to enrich all those with whom we are privileged to come in contact. We strive to succeed.

Foreword

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Education, in its fullest sense, is concerned with the development of the spiritual, intellectual, creative and emotional potential of each person. Catholic education seeks to achieve full human development by modelling itself on the person of Jesus Christ. Rice College, Ennis, is a Catholic school and consequently it endeavours to educate its pupils in accordance with the Christian principles outlined in the gospels.

The management, staff and pupils of the school continually and consistently endeavour to cultivate an atmosphere within the school, which is imbued with the Christian spirit of concern and caring for each other. The dignity and worth of each person, from the senior staff member to the junior student, is valued not because of gift, rank or age but because they are unique persons and God's children. The difficulties of one are the concerns of all.

Parents and prospective parents should be fully aware of the Christian character of Rice College. They should feel at ease with the aims, ideals and Christian values of this school and try to promote these in their own homes. Where there is conflict between the values of the home and school, the pupil may feel insecure and consequently education can be hampered. Parents are, after all, the primary educators of their children. It is vital that the values of the home and the school are in unison.

Currently during the COVID pandemic, school life has been amended and our school building has been adapted in certain areas to cater for the health and safety of all pupils and staff.

These conditions may of course need to adapt and change in the school year 2021-22

Looking forward to your continued support in our important task of educating our pupils.

Yours sincerely,

Louis Mulqueen
Principal



The Curriculum

The general aim of education is to contribute towards the development of all aspects of the individual. The college curriculum is such that the overall development of the student is well catered for. We have modified and expanded the range of subjects to serve the demands made of our pupils in a world of rapid change.

Junior Cycle Subjects

Students study 10 subjects for examination purposes, 8 of which are compulsory - Irish, English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Business Studies. Included in the 8 compulsory subjects is a Language - French or German. They must select 2 Practical Subjects from the following 4 subjects Wood Technology, Graphics, Music, Visual Art. This current combination of 10 subjects will be re-examined and may be amended by the curriculum committee for the year 2021/22.

Transition Year (optional)

The Transition Year option is a one-year educational programme available to students who have completed their Junior Cycle programme, depending upon demand. It offers students space to learn, mature and develop by studying and participating in a wide range of subjects and activities including Canoeing, Surfing and a visit to an Outdoor Pursuit Centre. Subjects include: Gaeilge, English, French, German, Mathematics, Business, Science, Computer Studies, Media Studies, Environment and Social Studies, Religious Education, Physical Education, Drama, Construction Studies, Music, Art, Career Guidance, Work Experience, First Aid, Tourism, Car Maintenance and Spanish.

The content and activities availability in these modules will be adhering to the relevant COVID Guidelines given at the time.

Leaving Certificate Subjects

Irish, English and Mathematics are studied by all students and the balance of their subjects, usually four, are chosen from the following: French, German, History, Geography, Accounting, Business, Economics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Construction Studies, Art, DCG and Music.

LCVP

The college offers further education and an openness to learning new skills in communication, problem solving, team work, flexibility and independent thinking through its Leaving Certificate Vocational Preparation (LCVP) course. This is taken as an extra subject for the Leaving Certificate and depends on subject choices and internal demand.

Non-examination elements of the college programme include: SPHE (Social, Personal & Health Education), CSPE (Civic, Social & Political Education), Religious Ed., Physical Ed., Wellbeing, Computers, Personal Development and Careers.

An Ghaeilge sa scoil

Déanann oidí na scoile a ndícheall chun meas na ndaltaí a mhúscailt sa teanga labhartha agus scríofa. Bíonn deis ag na scoláirí, gur mhian leo é, an t-ardchúrsa sa Ghaeilge a roghnú do na scrúdaithe teistiméireachta. Is rí-shoiléir go bhfuil Coláiste an Ríshigh ag déanamh a chion féin chun an Ghaeilge labhartha agus scríofa a chur chun chinn.

Career Guidance and Counselling

The growth of this service within our college is a direct consequence of the rapidly changing world in which we live. Guidance seeks to help students be prepared for situations which demand regular adaptation and continuous learning. Students are prepared for the transition from Rice College to higher education or work by developing the self-confidence which is such an essential requirement for success.

The Curriculum (Contd.)

Pastoral Care

The pastoral care team meets weekly to co-ordinate ways of helping students who may be experiencing difficulties while at school. A listening ear is offered to students who may be suffering from stress and college-based support is available to these students who might experience this growing problem within our educational system.

Following the vision of Blessed Edmund Rice, the management and staff of Rice College, Ennis intend to ensure that our students feel happy, safe and valued in our school. We recognise the many different difficulties that may affect our students as they proceed with their studies. Our Student Support Team will continually strive to identify such students, and to provide avenues of care for them. The team will strive to provide a safe forum to discuss their difficulties, thus encouraging them to return to normal school life. The approach of the team is based on the importance of allowing students to realise their true potential despite any difficulties which may arise. The team will liaise, when necessary, with all education partners, i.e. parents, teachers, outside agencies and the students themselves.

Special Needs/Curriculum Access Support

The college offers learning support to students with special education needs and those who are finding it difficult to access the curriculum. All new entrants are tested to determine the need for such support. The Curriculum Access Support Team strives to ensure that each and every student is supported in reaching his/her true potential during his/her time in our school, by working closely with the student, the parents/guardians, teachers and relevant outside agencies. Support can take the form of differentiation in the classroom, individual withdrawal, group withdrawal, check and connect, etc. This support is available to students who experience general learning difficulties and concentrates on his/her individual needs. New entrants are tested to determine the need for help here.

Cairdeas Programme

This year a new programme was established in our school called Cairdeas. It is made up of a committee of Transition Year students and is co-ordinated by Ms Brooks. The name Cairdeas, which is the Irish for friendship, demonstrates exactly what this group of students promotes in our school. The Cairdeas team agree at the beginning of the year to help initiate all new students to integrate into the school community. They organise many activities during lunch time happily giving their free time to ensure that the First years are assisted in their adjustment to life in secondary school. The Cairdeas team all wear yellow pins bearing the name Cairdeas so as they can be recognised by all new students across the board.

Extra Curricular (availability dependant on COVID Guidelines)

Rice College Advocacy Group

The Rice College Advocacy Group is made up of students who volunteer their free time and who seek to ensure that people, particularly those who are vulnerable in society are able to have their voice heard on issues that are important to them. The students strive to create campaigns that defend and safeguard Human Rights. As an Edmund Rice School we are part of a global community that seeks to raise awareness on social issues and promote a fair and just society through Edmund Rice Beyond Borders.

In recent years the Advocacy Group has worked on issues around homelessness and people living in direct provision. This year we are focusing closer to home and look forward to becoming a 'School of Sanctuary'.





Extra-Curricular (Contd.)

Debating and Public Speaking

Debating and public speaking are actively encouraged among our pupils at Rice College. The skills acquired by debating and public speaking encourage self-expression and self confidence in each student and will be of immense benefit in later years.

Music and Drama

The college encourages an appreciation of music, drama and dance, by giving the pupils the opportunity to channel their energy and creativity through these activities.

Concerts

School concerts are organised annually to give students an opportunity to showcase their talents.

School Choir

The school choir practices regularly and assists in liturgical services throughout the school year.

Mentoring

Senior students in Rice College aim to support and ease the integration of first year students into their new surroundings. Through the mentoring programme, first year students are linked with senior students who assist them if they encounter difficulties. The mentors act as mediators between students and teachers.

Grapevine Magazine/Newsletters

This production highlights the events that have happened in the college during the school year. This is produced by the TY students.

Beneficial activities

Retreats, field trips, educational outings are supplementary to the school programme. Students are expected to be present as these are arranged for their benefit. Parents will be notified officially about these events and the details involved.

Green Schools

A Green Team was established within the school to encourage our students to become more compassionate, Christian and caring about their fellow human beings and society. The team consists of parents, staff and students, who meet regularly to discuss new innovative ways of promoting environmental awareness within our school. The team has recently achieved our school's first ever Green Flag. Our team has fundraised in an environmentally aware manner for charitable causes and work with Ennis Tidy Towns – promoting green issues within our internal & broader community. It is open to all students to join The Green Committee – to promote environmental consciousness within the school & externally.

Student Council

All year groups democratically elect representatives to the Student Council. This ensures that the students' have a meaningful voice - that is heard.

Sports (availability dependant on COVID guidelines)

The college has diversified into many different sports to facilitate and cater for the needs of our students. Sport is seen as an integral part in the development of an individual; therefore, students are actively encouraged to participate in one or more of the following forms of recreation:

Hurling

Many of our students opt for hurling as their choice of game, acquiring the basic skills for future years and participating in both senior and junior Munster and Clare championships.

Camogie

Camogie is provided for pupils in our school. We play in Clare competitions.

Gaelic Football

Rice College has had impressive championship wins in the Clare colleges' competitions at all levels. We also have teams competing in the Munster colleges competitions. Boys and Girls from all years and of all abilities are welcome to participate.

Soccer

Both Boys and Girls are catered for by Internal leagues and entering other competitions.

Swimming / Gym

The town's Leisure Centre is used as a facility during physical education classes. Students from the college have represented the county and the province in competitive swimming.

Basketball

The school has taken part in inter-school leagues at various age levels.

Athletics

Students are encouraged to take an active part in athletics. Our students have represented the school in county, provincial, national and international competitions.

Rugby

Pupils have participated in rugby and performed well in Clare rugby blitz's and at Munster U16 & U19 level.

Golf

Students from our school participate in school golf competitions.

Showjumping

Our students have represented Rice College in the inter-schools show jumping competitions at various venues.

Handball

Both Boys and Girls enter into Clare & Munster Colleges Handball Championships.

Sports Day

The school runs an annual Sports Day including novelty events for all students. In 2021/2022, this will be dependent on HSE and NPHE Guidelines.



Basic School Rules

Respect

Students shall show respect and courtesy to all members of staff and to one another.

Punctuality/College Hours

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| <u>Morning Classes:</u> | 9.00 am to 1.10 pm |
| <u>Lunchtime*:</u> | 1.10 pm to 2.00 pm |
| <u>Afternoon Classes:</u> | |
| Monday & Tuesday | 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm |
| Wednesday – Friday | 2.00 pm to 3.20 pm |

*The college is not responsible for students who leave the premises at lunch time. First year are not allowed to leave the college grounds during lunchtime.

Tidiness

Students should pay attention to personal neatness and also to tidiness of classrooms, corridors, college yard and so on. Students must dispose of litter in the litter bins provided. Chewing gum is strictly prohibited.

Alcohol, Drugs, related substances and Smoking

The use, consumption or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs or any such substances, including but not limited to unprescribed medication, any product from a head shop or any such store, e-cigarettes or other vape products and smoking are strictly prohibited on the school campus. This includes all school related activities. A substance Use policy is in place.

College property

Students are expected to respect college property. Accidental damage should be reported immediately to the Principal or Deputy Principal.

Personal property

The school authorities do not accept any responsibility for the theft, loss or damage to any personal property. Valuables and money, except pocket money, are not allowed in the school.

Conduct

Students are answerable to the school authorities for any misbehaviour outside of school which reflects discredit on the college and are subject to disciplinary action within the college

Effort

Students are expected to give of their best in class at all times and to attend to their homework and study conscientiously.

Electronic Equipment

The use of lasers, ipods and any recording devices is strictly prohibited.

Digital Platform

In Rice College, we use Microsoft 365 – Teams. This is a digital platform giving students access to class notes, assignments and homework. Training is provided for all First Year Students upon entry to the school.

Safety

Students are expected to observe all health & safety regulations and Covid procedures throughout the school and in particular in the specialist classrooms.



Basic School Rules (Contd.)

Mobile Phone

All mobile phones must be powered off during school hours. Such a device is never to be used to take a photo/recording of any student or staff member. Mobile phones are not to be used in school unless directed by a teacher. A mobile phone which causes disruption in school may be confiscated. The use of mobile phones and/or other devices to access work on Teams is allowed only with the permission of the supervising teacher.

Uniforms (Girls)

Tartan skirt (knee length) or Grey trousers. (trousers are of a specific design and grey colour).

Navy V-neck jumper with the school crest.

Navy socks or plain navy or black tights. (No patterns or designs)

Blue Shirt

Dark footwear

Neat hairstyles.

Uniforms (Boys)

Plain Grey trousers

Navy V-neck jumper with the school crest.

Blue Shirt

Dark footwear

Neat hairstyles

Students must be dressed respectfully and appropriately as per uniform code. A discreet stud earring in each ear is permissible (one per ear). No other visible piercings are allowed. All students are expected to dress appropriately for P.E. classes and to observe necessary health and safety dress codes in specialist classes, e.g. safety goggles and lab coats during practical Science classes.

An appropriate tracksuit may be worn on the day a student has their P.E. class.

Reporting positive Behaviour

Just as errant behaviour is reported so too will good behaviour. Parents can be informed by a combination of the following:

1. Phone calls/Texts from the Deputy Principal or Year Head
2. Comments on House Exam Reports
3. Notes written in pupils' journal
4. Through the Awards Scheme
5. Praise in class.
6. Positive Comment on VSWare.



Further Information

College Canteen

A modern canteen facility provides a varied menu to students at lunch time. A healthy eating option menu is available. This facility is currently unavailable, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Meeting parents

Parents are welcome to meet the Principal, Deputy Principals, Year Heads or any staff member by appointment.

Parent / Teacher meetings

Parent/teacher meetings are held for all students every year. The format for these meetings will be dependent on HSE and NPHEG Guidelines.

Injury to students

The school authorities or any staff member cannot be held responsible for injury to any student caused by the student's own negligence or disregard of the school rules.

Medical conditions

Full details of any condition needing medication during the school day must be reported to the Principal.

Insurance and Administration

A personal accident insurance scheme is provided for pupils from the voluntary contribution given in September.

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| Contacts - | <u>Address:</u> | New Rd., Ennis, Co. Clare. V95 FV10 |
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