

Rice College Ennis (An Edmund Rice School)

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Religious Education Policy

School Name: Rice College, Ennis, Co. Clare

Address: New Road, Ennis, Co Clare. V95 FV10

Details: Rice College is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the Trusteeship and the Patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. The School is grant aided by the Department of Education & Skills and is a co-educational school.

School Management: The Board of Management of Rice College is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

Mission Statement:

Rice College is operated according to the religious and educational philosophy of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Charter (ERST).

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 and to recognise the needs and 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.

Ethos:

Inspired by the vision of Blessed Edmund Rice, the Christian Brother School gives priority to education in a living faith whereby students grow to appreciate the life and mission of Jesus Christ with a view to being committed to the world as he was. Has a special concern for the poor and underprivileged. His aim was to develop a curriculum which promotes the harmonious growth of the whole person.



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Introduction

It is our policy to make students aware of the special contribution of the Christian Brothers to the work of Christ in the world. While Rice College is a catholic school, we welcome students of all religious backgrounds.

Religious and Education Philosophy of the Edmund Rice School

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values;
- Promoting partnership in the school community;
- Excelling in teaching and learning;
- Creating a caring school community;
- Inspiring transformational leadership;

Rationale for the Policy

As a Christian Brothers School, we are committed to the importance of formal religious and moral education. This policy allows us the opportunity to reflect on, explore and articulate what it means to be a Christian Brothers School. It is our hope and privilege to harness the religious development of our students and to provide opportunities for them to know their God. We strive to be faithful to the founding intention of Edmund Rice and the implications of what it means to be a catholic school in this Edmund Rice tradition in third millennium Ireland.

Aims of The Religious Education Policy

- To contribute to the religious development of our students.
- To develop care for the weak, co-operation between students, justice and fair play towards all, respect for truth, a passion for the environment and a love for learning.
- To provide opportunities to deepen sacramental awareness.
- To encourage our students to ask and seek answers to important questions.
- To contribute to the whole school approach of the well-being of our students

Objectives of The Religious Education Policy

- To ensure the status of Religious Education in the school.
- To promote the religious and overall development of the students.
- To appreciate the richness of religious traditions and to provide a framework to encounter these traditions.
- To lead to a greater degree of clarity in respect of aims, procedures and roles for religious education in the school.



Staffing

We consider Religious Education to be an integral part of our school ethos and school community. Each class group has three R.E. periods per week.

Religious Education Team:

Ms. Catriona Molyneaux

Ms. Joan Hanrahan

Mr. Michael Lyons

Mr. Tony Cleary

Ms. Ellen Chambers

Ms. Meagan Bourke

Chaplain: Fr. Joy

Subject departments, including a Religious Education department exist in the school and a formal meeting takes place in September at which the syllabus provision is planned. Schedules of work for each year group are agreed on. Fr. Joy is the school Chaplain. He provides the opportunities for the school community to have sacramental experiences through:

- Junior and Senior opening school year masses
- Advent / Lent prayer services
- Lenten Ashes
- Parish Easter Liturgy
- Graduation Mass for sixth years
- Parish Advent Mass
- Weekly Lenten masses for students and staff

Curriculum and Resources

The school is linked to the Diocesan Office, and the Diocesan Advisor Mr. Luke O' Connor provides Religious Education teachers with resources, DES Syllabus advice. The ERST charter and head office provide guidance in our programme.

Each class group in the school studies Religious Education for three periods per week. School liturgical celebrations are evaluated by the RE department.

The school has provided each teacher with a set of text books. The NUA program and prayer room is also available. A religion folder has been created for sharing and storing resources on the staff drive. The RE department also collaborate and share resources using Teams.

The Religious Programme offered by Rice College teaches about all world views to broaden students understanding of the world around them.

Junior Cycle Programme

Junior Cycle students follow the DES Syllabus but will not be sitting the state exam.

The text book used is Beliefs in Our World.

Senior Cycle Programme



The Senior Cycle Religious Education Programme is a core subject at 5th and 6th year, but is not an examination subject.

The text book used is Seek and Find by Katherina Broderick, Elaine Costello and Brendan O' Regan. The NUA programme is also available.

Transition Year students are following a program formulated by the R.E. Dept.

Relationship, Sexuality Education is taught through Religious Education class. The teacher takes into consideration the R.S.E programme content, the R.S.E policy and the Catholic ethos of the school. This policy should be read in conjunction with The Rice College Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy

Content and Assessment Techniques

The Religion Dept. is committed the whole school approach and will endeavour to implement the Literacy and Numeracy, Group Work and AFL Targets.

Staff Support and Development

The School management provides support for the delivery of the RE curriculum in the following ways:

- ERST, The Board of Management, The Diocesan Advisor, School Chaplain and priests in the parish.
- RE teachers are allowed to attend in-service.
- Cover is organised for teachers involved in parish liturgy.
- Staff are invited to be involved in school services and masses.
- Funding is provided for Senior RE resources.

Faith Formation and the Liturgical Year

The liturgical seasons are marked in the school in the following ways:

- Advent Wreath in the sacred space
- Parish Advent Mass.
- Christmas – Crib, tree, class prayer service, reconciliation service.
- Lent – ashes offered to the students, weekly Lenten mass offered to staff and students, reconciliation.
- Easter – students are brought to St. Joseph's to do the Stations of the Cross.

Christian Unity Week and Catholic Schools Week

Christian Unity Week and Catholic Schools Week are celebrated in January through our sacred space, poster competitions and reflections

Graduation Mass

The sixth year graduation mass takes place in May and involves students, their parents and staff.

Parish Involvement.



Our annual parish Advent Mass and St. Patrick's Day Mass takes place in the Cathedral. Students participate in the Easter ceremonies in the cathedral.

Outreach Programmes

The school's involvement in a wide range of outreach programmes ensures religious education is experienced through faith in action. These programmes include:

- Pope John Paul II Awards – Parish involvement and social awareness programmes
- Involvement in Edmund Rice Awards programme.
- Faith Friends
- Concern fast.
- Parish liturgy for advent.
- Visits to Friary and Poor Clare's Convent
- Hope Foundation
- Retreats – Mustard Seed
- Pilgrimages – Croagh Patrick and Lough Derg
- Opportunity to travel to Taize
- Volunteer on the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage Lourdes
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Annual Food Appeal
- Fundraising
- Guest Speakers
- Community Work – Linked with St. Clare's School for children with special needs

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are informed of the aims, objectives and content of Religious Education Programmes and RSE Programme by means of:

- First Year Open Night presentations
- Parents receive information on up-coming retreats, Pope John Paul II Awards, SVP, retreats, pilgrimages and Faiths Friends by letters, text and newsletters
- Parents are also informed in advance of the RSE module being delivered.

Parish and Parental Involvement

Guest speakers from the community are used e.g. The Samaritans, St. Vincent de Paul
The school chaplain is a member of the parish team, providing a strong School-Parish link.

Inclusion



Rice College promotes a Christian and Catholic Ethos following the Edmund Rice Vision and Charter. Throughout the school year we will mark the important liturgical occasions both in school and in Church

We welcome all student to join us in our religious celebrations as part of the school community.

Policy Review:

This Religious Education Policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis. The policy is circulated amongst all staff and can be viewed on the school's website, www.ricecollege.ie.

Approval: This policy has been approved by Rice College Board of Management.

Signed:

Date: 7/12/22

Chairperson, Board of Management.

Signed: _____

Date: 7/12/22

Principal, Rice College.