



# EDMUND RICE COLLEGE

Excellence **R**espect **C**are



Prospectus  
2019





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EDUCATIONAL  
**EXCELLENCE**  
FOR ALL PUPILS  
**RESPECT** FOR  
SELF AND OTHERS  
**CARE** IN THE HOME  
SCHOOL AND  
COMMUNITY



# Mission Statement

In Edmund Rice College we provide a pupil-centred, broad and balanced curriculum reflecting the needs of all pupils with the aim of maximising their life chances.

We strive, as a school community, to ensure that each student has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. We do this within a learning environment that is safe, positive, respectful, inclusive, and welcoming.

Our ethos permeates all that we do and creates an environment of care and support. Pupils are encouraged to have ambitious aspirations and are motivated in pursuit of these. Past pupils have progressed into all walks of life. Many past pupils retain a strong link with the school including involvement at Board of Governor level. An even greater number send their children to Edmund Rice College, which indicates confidence in the school and is a great testament to what we do. Through provision

of a broad range of curricular and extra-curricular activities and the promotion of a positive outlook to life, we develop the whole individual. The professionalism of all staff is evidenced in their work and performance. Their commitment to Continued Professional Development ensures modern techniques, methodologies and technologies are employed in both teaching and learning. Our school is deeply rooted in our communities and reflects the diversity therein. The triangular partnership between the school, the home and the community allows us to create a school that pupils aspire to go to, feel welcome at, perform well in and of which the community is proud.

*"Whilst you work for God, whether you succeed or not, he will amply reward you."*



# Welcome from our Transition Team

At Edmund Rice College we are fully committed to ensuring that pupils have a sense of belonging in a strong and vibrant school community where they can experience a wide range of activities and develop a desire and passion for learning.

From the very beginning of any student's journey here, we encourage everyone to excel and take up an opportunity to promote themselves in a positive light. We expect our pupils to challenge themselves, to work hard and to give their best efforts in order to achieve their full potential as they enter adult life. We welcome and value all pupils in an inclusive all-ability environment as we aim to instil the values of Excellence, Respect and Care at all times throughout their time in the school.

Education is not just about exam results and we pride ourselves in Edmund Rice College in guaranteeing that each pupil feels safe and happy at all times. The pastoral care in the school has been highlighted in recent ETI inspection reports as being "Outstanding", highlighting the strong and positive relationships between staff, pupils and parents. The school's Catholic ethos permeates the life and work of the college as we aim to continue the legacy and great work that Blessed Edmund

Rice began with when he founded his first school. Through this prospectus, we aim to show the warmth of Edmund Rice College. We invite you to take the opportunity of the Open Evening to explore the school and to speak to staff and pupils about their experiences.

We very much look forward to meeting you then and fully hope that you will be able to join us in September as a pupil of Edmund Rice College.

Mr S Campbell (Head of Year 8)  
Maeve O'Connor (Head of Transition)



'Pupils have a sense of belonging in a strong and vibrant school'



# A Welcome from the Head Girl

Hi, I'm Eirinn.

I am the first ever Head Girl at Edmund Rice College. I joined the school in Year 13 so I have been here for over a year and I have really enjoyed every minute of it. The staff and other pupils were so welcoming that it was easy to settle in and I felt at home almost immediately.

Of course, it also helps that my brother and little sister are at the school too! I think that this is one of the best things about the school becoming co-educational; now families can all go to the same school.

The teachers here are very good at giving advice about career pathways and support with work. Sixth form courses can be tough! I am studying Business, Photography and Art and have applied to St. Mary's as I would like to become a teacher myself. I am confident that with the continued encouragement and support from ERC that I will get there. Maybe I'll be back as a staff member one day...here's hoping!

Anyway, I hope you enjoy Edmund Rice College as much as I have and always remember...we are much more than a school.

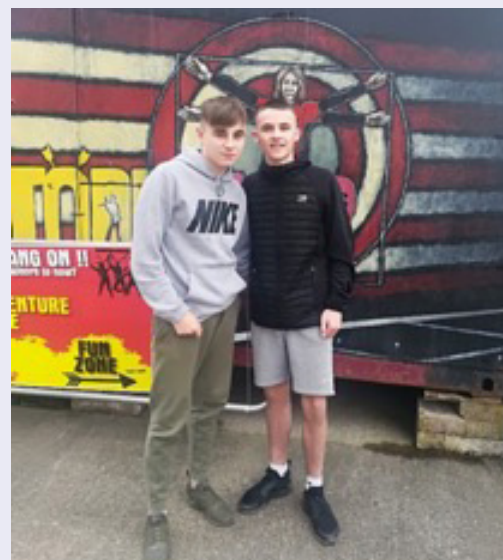




# Pastoral Care in Edmund Rice College

Pastoral Care in Edmund Rice College is the corner stone of everything we as a school community do.

The minute you walk through the doors you will be offered the hand of friendship. It has often been said over the years that you can feel the caring atmosphere throughout the school. This is all due to the hard work and dedication of a staff that have the pastoral care of our students at the heart of everything they do. In addition, the Pastoral Care Team work closely with a number of external agencies that engage our students in activities to support their well-being and enhance their learning experience.



## Day-to-Day At Edmund Rice College

- 1 The Pastoral Care Team is co-ordinated by the Head of Pastoral Care - Mrs Geraldine Davey and she is supported by the Year Heads and Form Teachers. Strong relationships are built between students and form teachers and Teacher Mentors are there to support individual students for a variety of reasons.

## YEHA Project

- 2 The YEHA Project supports the students of Edmund Rice College in tackling issues affecting their health and emotional well-being. YEHA are currently running the Breakthrough Project with Year 10 Students.

## Youth Services

- 3 The aim is to use youth work interventions with these young people to raise their awareness of positive mental health, how to find support, and develop their confidence, resilience and coping strategies.

## Family Works

- 4 School Counselling Service. Offers a range of support services to all students.

## Lighthouse Charity

- 5 Lighthouse is a charity supporting the young people of North Belfast. Lighthouse are currently training nine of our Year 13 students to become mentors. In addition to their training they will achieve an OCN qualification.

## Leading Change Programme

- 6 For the past two years, Edmund Rice College has been working with Barnardo's Leading Change Programme. Each year two year 13 students are selected to take part in the programme whereby they engage with students from the nine schools in North Belfast taking part in a residential developing leadership skills while organising activities for the local community.

# School Day

	8:50 9:05	9:05 9:55	9:55 10:45	10:45 11:00	11:00 11:50	11:50 12:40	12:40 1:15	1:30 2:05	2:05 2:55	2:55 3:15
MON	Class Registration	LLW	HOME ECONOMICS	BREAK	TECHNOLOGY	ART	LUNCH	SCIENCE	RELIGION	Class De-Registration
TUES	Class Registration	MATHS	ENGLISH		P.E	P.E		HOME ECONOMICS	HISTORY	Class De-Registration
WED	Class Registration	IRISH	SCIENCE		COMPUTER	TECH		DRAWING	FRENCH	Class De-Registration
THURS	Class Registration	FORM PERIOD	ART		GEOMETRY	ENGLISH		SCIENCE	ENGLISH	Class De-Registration
FRI	Class Registration	SCIENCE	ART		ENGLISH	LLW		SCIENCE	ART	Class De-Registration





# School Uniform & Sports PE Kit

**Blazer:** 1880 Club, Bright Royal Blue  
**Jumper Yr 8 - 12** - Deerpark Knitwear.  
 Grey jumper with blue, white and yellow stripes on V  
**Jumper Yr 13 & 14** - Deerpark Knitwear.  
 Black jumper with school logo on chest  
 & blue, white & yellow stripes on V

**Skirt:** 1880 Club, Black  
**Trousers:** 1880 Club, Black  
**Shirt/Blouse:** 1880 Club, White  
**White Shirt**  
**Black Leather Shoes**  
**Black Socks (Boys)**  
**Black Tights (Girls)**  
**Tie Yr 8-12**



*Blazer With school crest*

*V Neck Jumper*

*Tie Yr 8-12*

*Black Skirt & Trousers*

*Black shoes*



*Available from O'Neills -*

*Gaelic Top Royal & Amber*

*Shorts Royal with Triple Amber stripe at sides*

*Royal socks with Triple Amber stripes at top.*



# Teaching & Learning

Edmund Rice College believes in 'Educational Excellence'. We aim to provide a stimulating, well organised and high-quality teaching and learning experience for every pupil. Teaching and Learning are at the heart of all that we do at Edmund Rice College, the quality of teaching will have a strong impact on the effectiveness of learning. In all lessons in Edmund Rice College, we strive to ensure pupils maximise their full potential and make progress. We employ a wide range of teaching and learning strategies to engage pupils, making their learning relevant and fun.

We have five assessment windows throughout the academic term and pupils are regularly given the opportunity to peer and self-assess their work, allowing them the opportunity to take ownership of their learning. We have high expectations for all our pupils and

are committed to quality teaching and learning strategies that encourage each pupil to strive toward and achieve their full potential. The curriculum at Edmund Rice College, whilst primarily shaped by the Revised Curriculum for Northern Ireland, is designed to reflect the key principles of the school's mission statement. The college is committed to ensuring that the curriculum is challenging, interesting and rewarding.

## Key Stage 3

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum. In KS3 all pupils study- English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Science, French, Irish, Geography, Drama, Physical Education, Technology and Design, Information Technology, History, Music, Art, Home Economics, Learning for Life and Work.





At KS4 all pupils follow GCSE courses in English, Maths and Religious Studies. Pupils then choose two single award subjects and two double awards. Some pupils follow a curriculum that includes English, Mathematics at GCSE with one Double Award and Occupational Studies units equivalent to 4 GCSEs in: Bench Joinery, Vehicle Fast Fit Operations, Sport and Business Communication.



Edmund Rice College offers a wide range of Post-16 courses to a high achieving and growing sixth form. Current A levels include: Sports Studies, Art and Design, Photography, Business Studies, Moving Image Arts, ICT, Drama, Philosophy and Ethics (RE), Hospitality, Health and Social Care, Science and Travel and Tourism.

"Were we 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."

Core GCSEs	Double Award GCSEs	Double Award GCSEs	Single Award GCSEs	Single Award GCSEs	Other
English Maths GCSE Religion	+	Art	+	Geography Drama Irish French History Learning for Life and Work	+
English Maths OCNNI Religion	+	Sport  Construction  ICT	+	Technology History Geography Learning for Life and Work Single Science	+
English Maths OCNNI Religion	+	Business	+	Music Career Studies	+
					Careers
					PE
					Form Period

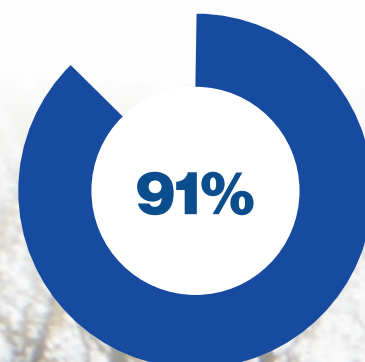
GCSE		LEVEL 3 COURSES GCE A Levels - BTEC National Diplomas - Cambridge Technical Diplomas					Career Pathway
7+ A*-C at GCSE usually with a C or better in English and Maths	Pick any 3 courses →	Moving Image Art	HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	Art	ICT	NBALC English Literature Biology	→ University Further Education Degree Level 4 Apprenticeship
5+ A*-C at GCSE usually without English and/or Maths	Pick 3 BTEC courses →	BUSINESS STUDIES	BUSINESS STUDIES	Religion	SPORT	Media Studies History Mathematics	
		Life Science	Photography	SPORT DOUBLE AWARD	Drama	French	→ Level 3 Gap Year Employment Volunteering
		SPORT	TRAVEL AND TOURISM	ICT	HOSPITALITY <i>Other subjects possible</i>	Politics Sociology Music	

**\*BTEC Courses are shown in CAPITALS**



# Pupil Success

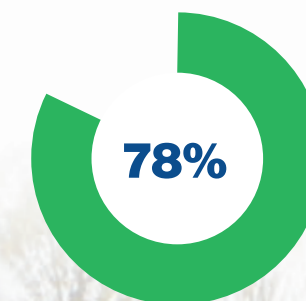
Percentage of pupils  
attaining 5 or more  
GCSEs at grades A\* to C



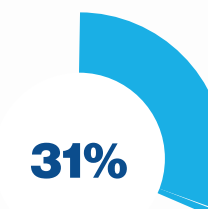
Percentage of pupils  
taking at least 3  
A-Level subjects.



Percentage of pupils  
attaining C or above  
in at least 3 A-Levels



Percentage of pupils  
attaining straight  
A's at A-Level





# SEN Provision

## What is our SEN provision at Edmund Rice College?

**1** Differentiated lessons to suit our student's needs. This means that each student will have access to the curriculum at the appropriate level. Teachers tailor lessons to support each student appropriately. Homework is also appropriately set for each student based on their level of learning and ensure success is possible to build on self-esteem and confidence.

**2** We have two Specialist Support Classes which are made up of groups of specially chosen students based on varying Special Educational Needs. The classes are small in size to mirror life in the Specialist School setting, and the primary aim is to aid the transition of our SEN students into Secondary Mainstream life. We have a class in Year 8 and another in Year 9; after which stage we feel ready to integrate the pupils into a more mainstream environment and promote independence in advance of their GCSEs. The classes are supported by 2 Specialist Teachers, who withdraw the students out in small focus groups each week to work on intensive Literacy, Numeracy and Social skills practice. The pupils in the classes are progressing well and one of the best parts of this new provision is that we can provide such specialist support to pupils across all stages of the Code of Practice; not just those that have been lucky enough to get through the lengthy and laborious process of gaining a Statement.

**3** Paired Reading and Paired Numeracy take place in school and gives our students a chance to have focused support where necessary. These programmes are run by our Literacy and Numeracy Support Teams who aim to work on and develop the basics of these vital skills and give one to one support in a nurturing environment where pupils can flourish. We believe these classes are vital in improving Literacy and Numeracy Skills; which are essential across all subjects.

**4** Literacy support classes are run in school and after school. This means each student can attend six-week classes that are run in a small group environment. Students are taught Literacy skills and given additional support to assist them with any Literacy difficulties they may have.



Miss Colette Deery and Mrs Michelle Cust

**5** Numeracy support classes are also offered during and after school. Again students work in small groups, which means they can get practice with essential Numeracy skills in a more focused scenario away from traditional classroom teaching styles. We aim to make these classes engaging and enjoyable and offer a hands-on approach, where students learn and have fun at the same time.

*Numeracy*

**7** We also run small specialist classes which focus on the building of confidence and social skills. Social, emotional and behaviour intervention groups assist students that need extra assistance with their social skills and communicating emotions effectively. Students have the opportunity to socialise and build on their own self-esteem in a safe and nurturing environment.

*Social Skills*



**6** Confidence and self-esteem building is paramount for success. We believe when the students see you have faith in their ability and opportunities are created, their confidence will grow. All teachers are committed to ensuring the development of self-esteem where necessary, via the student IEP and in conjunction with our Pastoral Care Team.

**8** Classroom Assistant support is also widely used across the school. Classroom assistants are directed by Mrs Cust but largely by the subject teacher in terms of their role within the classroom. This includes:

- Keeping the students on task.
- Helping with organisational skills.
- Giving comfort and reassurance where needed.
- Assisting with the tasks given by the teacher. Their role is primarily to ensure the student can fully access the curriculum and fulfil their potential.
- Build up a rapport with their students once they are assigned.
- This can take the form of some light-hearted card and board games in the Learning Support unit at appropriate times of the day/year. It is important that good mutual working relationships exist between our assistants and our students; but mostly that our students can develop trust and feel safe and content with the adult looking after them.





# After school Extra Curricular Activities

**Homework Club**  
**Maths Club**  
**Numeracy Club**  
**Choir**  
**Soccer**  
**ICT Club**  
**Board Games Club**  
**Hurling/Camogie**  
**Gaelic Games** (Boys and Girls)

**Basketball**  
**Netball**  
**Literacy Club**  
**Language Club**  
**GCSE Booster**  
**Revision Classes**  
**History Club**  
**Table tennis**  
**Art Club**



*"If you only acquire humility, it  
will always guide you safely."*



# Sport

The PE department at Edmund Rice College seeks to provide health-related exercise and sporting opportunities to all pupils, laying the building blocks to a healthy lifestyle and the opportunity for sporting excellence. The PE department seeks to deliver our objective by providing a range of sporting and active opportunities that pupils can enjoy. We seek to encourage participation, identify talent and develop performance in an attempt to promote healthy lifestyles.

The PE department also offers a pathway in academic classes, to encourage career paths in the sports industry. This is provided through the BTEC syllabus. At Key Stage 4, the pupils follow BTEC sports Level 2 and at Post 16 we offer the Level 3 course.

This has provided the route for many of our pupils to continue their enjoyment of sport and have a career doing what they love.





# Careers Education, Advice, Information & Guidance

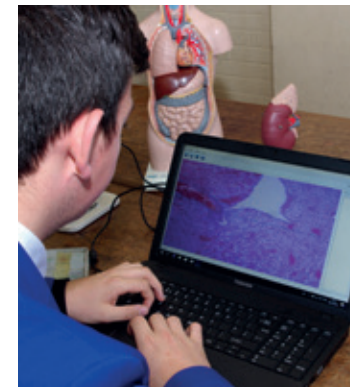
Careers Education, Advice, Information and Guidance (CEAIG) in Edmund Rice College provides students with the opportunity to complete effective research, discuss with tutors any issues relating to career choices and assist them in their decision making throughout the key transition stages during their school years.

A structured programme has been developed to ensure that careers education is fully integrated into the curriculum and meets the needs of all pupils. The Careers Team within Edmund Rice College aims to assist all students to find the most appropriate pathway for them and welcomes contact with parents during this sometimes difficult period.

The boys and girls have the support and help from all staff members and they have the opportunity to cover a variety of topics including:

- Learning about different job roles
- Creating CVs
- Becoming familiar with recruitment procedures
- Carrying out research
- Developing and building on a personal profile
- Taking part in role play interviews
- Planning and carrying out relevant Work Experience
- Visiting workplaces to gain insight into the working world
- Listening to guest speakers
- Attending careers events
- Completing application forms
- Researching and applying for university.

Careers in Edmund Rice has increasingly become much more high profile throughout the school and indeed plays a vital and prominent role in all subjects. Each year we enjoy a 'Careers Awareness Week', during this week we invite past pupils into our classroom to talk to the students about their chosen career path and the ups and downs they have encountered on their way. They continuously provide valuable advice to our students and some go the extra mile to lend one to one guidance and support in their area of expertise. These past pupils are an invaluable resource within our school.





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