



Coláiste Phádraig CBS

Coláiste Phádraig CBS Lucan, Co. Dublin

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY May 2023

Mission Statement

Coláiste Phádraig is a voluntary secondary school under the trusteeship of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (E.R.S.T) and provides education in the Edmund Rice tradition. Coláiste Phádraig aims to encourage the development of the spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, creative and physical qualities of each student. This school is made up of Trustees, Board of Management, Principal, Deputy Principal, Teaching Staff, Ancillary Staff, Parents and Students. The central purpose of the school is the religious, moral, intellectual, physical and social development of the students. Such a purpose is best achieved in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Ethos

As an Edmund Rice School, Coláiste Phádraig seeks to promote the five key elements of an Edmund Rice School as espoused by the ERST Charter:

- 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.

Policy on Religious Education in ERST Catholic Schools **Rationale for the policy**

As an ERST Catholic 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 / Edmund Rice 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 the third millennium Ireland.

Goals and objectives of the policy

- To provide positive experiences and opportunities for the growth of interpersonal relationships.
- To ensure the status of Religious Education (RE) 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 RE in the school.

Scope of the Policy

As an ERST Catholic School this RE policy will impact on the whole school community:

Board of Management

- To approve the policy and ensure its implementation.

Principal and Deputy Principal

- To support the procedures of the policy and ensure its effective implementation.

School Staff

- As teachers in an ERST catholic school, the aim is that the whole staff embrace and safeguard the ethos of the school and support the cross-curricular nature of RE.

Teachers of Religious Education

- To implement and review the policy
- To ensure a high standard and effective delivery of RE.

Pastoral Care Personnel (Class Tutors/ Guidance Counsellor)

- To monitor the effects of the policy and to provide support and guidance to students.

Parents/Guardians

- To support the RE Programme in the school and to facilitate the faith formation of their children.

Students

- To participate in the RE Programme and to cultivate an openness to other religious traditions and to enjoy the search for truth together.
- Students with special educational needs are catered for insofar as resources, supported by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) will allow.

Nature of Religious Education

As a Catholic school RE is a core subject on the school curriculum and an integral part of the ethos of the school. RE is provided for students in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Catholic Church that derives its thrust and ultimate foundation from the person of Christ. RE has nothing in common with indoctrination that amounts to teaching a student a religious way of behaving and believing or trying to 'convert' to Catholicism. This type of teaching deliberately harms students by undermining their natural ability to reason. In contrast, as a school we are committed to the deepest respect for both faith and reason as they contribute significantly to the formation of rational and mature citizens of a democratic society.

Three types of learning in RE are evident in our school:

All students will study a module on Edmund Rice at the beginning of each school year. Junior Cycle classes follow the DES curriculum but do not sit the exam. Leaving Certificate students study different modules of learning for each rotation. Examples would include: Morality, Justice, World Religions etc. This will be followed by:

Learning into religion

Students are provided with religious instruction and experience, such as prayer and sacramental participation that will help them to grow into their faith and in their understanding of the Catholic tradition.

Learning about religion

While particular focus is given to Christianity, students are exposed to a broad range of religious traditions and to the non-religious interpretation of life. Such a broad exposure seeks to develop in students' powers of tolerance, mutual understanding and the skills needed to engage in meaningful dialogue with those of others, or of no religious traditions.

Learning from Religion

Students evaluate both what has been learned and how it has impacted on their lived commitments. Students are invited to learn from what they are discovering.

The RE that the school provides is open to, and inclusive of, all students of all faiths and those of none.

Vision of an ERST Catholic School

Inspired by the vision of Edmund Rice, our school:

- Seeks to live by Gospel values
- Recognises the dignity of each individual
- Has a special concern for the poor and under-privileged
- Is challenged to develop a curriculum which promotes the harmonious growth of the whole person.
- Contributes to the building up of the local community by working for peace and justice in society so that the school becomes a beacon of faith.

Aims of Religious Education:

- All students within each year group will study a module on Edmund Rice in September of each year.

- To foster good relationships between pupils themselves, between pupils and teachers, and the school community and God.
- To contribute to the religious development of our students.
- To develop care for the vulnerable, foster justice and fairness towards all, respect for truth, co-operation between pupils, 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 come to know and to love Christ.
- The new school Oratory will be used by RE teachers only and students of every faith.

Faith Formation and the Liturgical Year

It is important that teachers who work in a school participate actively in the liturgical and sacramental life of the school. Students who witness and experience the concrete involvement of adults in the liturgical and sacramental life of the school will share more readily in the life of the school. We endeavour to promote a Christian spirituality in our schools.

Parental and Parish Involvement

Coláiste Phádraig works closely with St. Mary's Parish Lucan. The local parish priest is our Chaplain. Schools are most successful in achieving their religious goals when the school, home and parish mutually reinforce each other.

Inclusion

As a school we strongly recommend that every student study Religious Education. How we respond to students of various faiths reflects our understanding of what it means to be a Catholic, Edmund Rice School. However the school respects the rights of parents to request their son/guardian to be exempt from participation in RE classes. The new school Oratory will be available at lunchtime for students who want to pray.

Policy Monitoring and Review

Effective policy requires monitoring and evaluation to ensure successful implementation and to review what adjustments may be necessary from time to time. In order that the tasks of monitoring and evaluation are effective, the following will be helpful:

- The RE department will monitor policy implementation.
- Good communication between the RE Department and school management.

Approval

This policy has been approved by the Board of Management of Coláiste Phádraig CBS, Roselawn, Lucan.

Signed: _____

Date: _____