



Edmund Rice Education

Denis McLaughlin¹ in his recently published book researching the educational vision the founder of the Christian Brothers Edmund Ignatius Rice which he put into place in the schools he established in Ireland in the first half of the 19th century in Ireland, concluded from his analysis of the historical sources available the following synthesis of Ricean Education.

The education that Edmund Rice pioneered was an initiative within the 'evangelising mission of the Church'. It was distinguished by the following characteristics and their expressions:

1. *Presence leading to a respectful sense of the sacred*
 - *A profound belief in the equal dignity of persons*
 - *Nurturing a culture of faith*
 - *A scholarly approach to education of the spirit*
2. *Compassion nurturing authentic community*
 - *Honouring of a caring family spirit*
 - *Solidarity with the unimportant, the poor and the neglected*
3. *Liberation underpinning the provision of education*
 - *Relevant, quality and critical education*
 - *An interdependent system of education focusing on mission authenticity*

The tradition of the Christian Brothers who administered St Mary's for the first 97 years of its existence is very important to this community. We proudly do our best to continue the vision of Edmund in the life of the College today.

¹ *"The Price of Freedom"*, Denis McLaughlin, David Lovell Publishing, 2006, p396

St Mary's College

Toowoomba



School Development Plan

2007 – 2010

Supporting Our Mission



School Development Plan 2007 - 2010

This development plan has been developed consultatively with input and feedback from all sections of the College community. It is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of everything that happens in a large and busy school. It is not meant to replace those things that we value from our tradition and wish to continue and even strengthen. Our identified strength as a welcoming community is one such example.

Rather, this document takes existing structures and processes and examines, in the light of our mission statement, the areas we will especially concentrate on in the process of school improvement. The list of eight strategic priorities will be used to develop annual operational plans for the school and major areas of the school. The key strategies outline our general approach and the indicators will be used to measure how well we have reached our strategic intent.

The College Mission Statement has been presented diagrammatically to aid in understanding the relationships between the components of that statement. At the centre of what we do is experience of the love of God in relationship which was central to the educational vision of the founder of the Christian Brothers, Edmund Rice. We aim to continue in this tradition forming student character within a welcoming community.

This mission is supported by the three pillars of staff, facilities and resources and leadership and management. The Community Values Statement and our Learning Framework are key documents in bringing the mission to life. Thank you to the members of the College Board who have supported and been active in the development of this plan. Special thanks to Mr. Michael Bryant for contributing his considerable expertise to this project.

John Coman
Principal

Sallyanne Callaghan
Chairperson
College Board

St Mary's Learning Framework



Community

- We are called to be the "Face of Christ" to each other.
- Nurturing positive relationships is our approach to individual and community development.
- Teachers and boys contribute their individual giftedness to the learning environment.
- A sense of belonging is fostered through whole school and classroom learning as a "shared experience".

Connectedness

- Opportunities are created for boys to understand the interconnectedness of all as citizens of the world and "people of God".
- Connections between knowledge and across disciplines are made explicit.
- Meaningful activities for boys relate school learning to the world outside the classroom.

Choice

- Pathways provide boys with choice about their learning from whole school and classroom perspectives.
- Opportunities for boys to make choices about learning and assessment are incorporated wherever possible.
- Choices make learning more meaningful for boys.

Challenge

- Through appropriate learning challenges higher order thinking, deep knowledge and understanding are developed.
- Focus is on identifying and solving intellectual and/or contemporary "real-world" problems.
- Strategies to ensure success are incorporated.
- Examination of ethical and moral decision making in the search for truth.

Creativity

- Developing imagination is foundational to developing creativity and empathy.
- Creative solutions to problem solving are encouraged.
- Creative expression and learning in diverse forms are encouraged.

Conversation

- Sustained conversation at depth is essential in developing quality learning.
- This level of conversation is founded on mutual respect, tolerance and acceptance.

St Mary's College Vision and Values

We Value **SUPPORT**....

For each other in life long learning and faith

- Respect for each other and our environment
- Encouraging each other
- Acting with justice and integrity

We Value **STRIVING TOGETHER**....

In partnership with boys and their families

- Setting goals
- Working together
- Contributing to community development

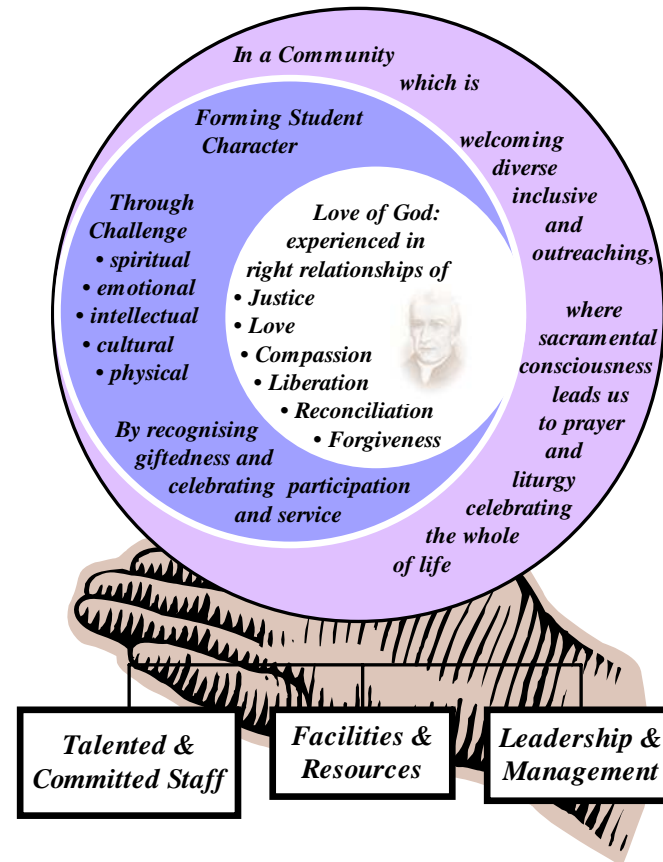
We Value **SUCCESS**....

In personal growth and learning

- Developing a strong work ethic
- Being optimistic
- Being the best person we can be



St Mary's College School Development Plan 2007 - 2010 Supporting our Mission



St Mary's College Toowoomba - Strategic Priorities 2007 – 2010



Mission	Priority	Strategies	Indicators
Faith (Love of God)	<i>Faith experience and development</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring other opportunities for liturgy, prayer and formation in faith 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> New and expanded opportunities available Increased voluntary participation
Student Formation	<i>House Restructure Learning Framework</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Houses restructured and renamed Implementation by Heads of Department and AP Curriculum Discussion forums with staff, parents and students Shared teaching resources and strategies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> New identities for the four new houses developed Learning Framework used in preparation and delivery of teaching/learning experiences and assessment
	<i>Responsible Thinking Process</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion through staff, parent and student forums of process and principles Refinement of process and operation of Responsible Thinking Classroom 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increased understanding of process within the community Improved learning environment in classrooms Further improvement in "school tone" Decreased referrals to RTC Supportive processes in place for identified students
	<i>Curriculum structure and pathways</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> College community engagement with current curriculum initiatives; ETRF, QCAR, Review of Senior Schooling, National Curriculum, KLA syllabi 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Outcomes of these initiatives known and assessed for relevance to St Mary's Refinement to current offerings developed consultatively
	<i>Professional Development</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consultative development of school Professional Development priorities Development of individual PD plans Planning for financial support of PD plans 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> College PD priorities established consultatively All staff members with PD plan Increased funding for PD in College Budget Systems in place to support teaching staff in meeting re-registration requirements with the Qld. College of Teachers Staff to meet PD requirements to teach in a Catholic school RE staff to meet PD requirements to teach RE in a Catholic school
Community	<i>Master Plan</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> College Board to redevelop 1998 master plan in consultation with community College Board to develop Finance strategy to support the master plan Maintenance plan redeveloped 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Master plan completed consultatively Finance strategy with timelines developed and approved Maintenance plan in place by end 2007 and financed through the life of this plan
	<i>Strategic Operation</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Change of focus towards strategic operation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Senior and Middle management role descriptions and operation are more strategic in orientation
	<i>Edmund Rice Network</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Formal association with EREA 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Associate status approved Participation in EREA formation and PD