Religious Identity & Mission at Edmund Rice College

- PowerPoint Reflection on aspects of our Religious Identity and Mission

Our yardstick: The Charter for Edmund Rice Schools

“The ultimate purpose of Christian Brother schools is to make disciples – people committed to bringing about the reign of God, a world of justice, love and peace, where people can truly celebrate life. We educate people whose careers, trades or professions can be vehicles by which the values of the Gospel are daily expressed in action; who live for others according to the values and principles of the Gospel; who contribute to the transformation of their world in the light of the Gospel and Church.”

- It is very important for us that all people, regardless of religion feel that they can participate in the whole program offered by the College. We are inspired by the Gospel, but respect each person’s own religious tradition and endeavour to find ways of honouring participation within our community and their own tradition.

- Edmund Rice College expects all students to participate in the formative experiences of Religious Education, Liturgy, Retreats, Reflection Days & Excursions, Social Justice & Christian Service-Learning as part of their College experience.

Liturgy

Individual class liturgies based on the areas of the curriculum, usually led by the Liturgy coordinator, Mrs Knowles, or the classroom teacher.
Whole year group or whole school liturgies

Retreats & Reflection Days

Currently we run a three day retreat in Year 12 with a one-day reflection day at the beginning of Year 11 and next year introducing the follow-up of a one-day reflection day mid way through Year 12 (May)
Year 10 Social Justice Day – reflects on themes of social justice in current Australian society. This year, for instance, we have the CEO and chair of the Australian Refugee Council coming; two young refugees whom the Year 12 students met last week at the ‘Welcome to Australia Walk’; a local film maker working with marginalised young people; an I-Kiribati person affected by Climate Change; a young doctor who has been a volunteer in Uganda and a former student of ERC who now works with the Smith Family in their community programmes.

Plan for the Future:
Indigenous Cultures Day – year 9
Reflection Days for Years 7 & 8, possibly involving parents
**Christian Service Learning**
- Three-stage program, connected to the Religion Studies curriculum in 7-10 and an independent project in Year 11.
- Opportunities through the College (ie helping at Athletics Carnivals, SVdP Sleepout, Legacy...) and students are encouraged to connect to the volunteer activities of their families.
- Reflection is equally important to the experience as it is through reflection that we grow as people.

**Student Leadership for Justice & Peace**

Creating opportunities for students to develop their leadership potential. Including:
- Student Representative Council
- SRC Forum
- Peer Support
- Missions & Charities
- Initiatives such as Shave for a Cure; Winter Sleep Out; World Vision; Legacy....
- EREA Justice Symposium
- ACU Social Justice Day
- Social Justice at St Edmunds Special School
- Reconciliation Week & NAIDOC Week
- ERA for Change – a new advocacy initiative of several Edmund Rice Schools, including ERC

**Religion Curriculum**

- Years 7 – 10 based on the Sydney CEO Program ‘Faithful to God, Faithful to people’
- 1 cross-form Assessment task per term plus a Semester Exam (except for Year 7 in Semester One)
- On-going class work and assessment for learning
- Years 11-12 currently the one-unit HSC course Studies of Religion. We study the Nature of Religion, Christianity, Islam and Religion in Australia Post 1945.
- Year 12 can opt into Catholic Studies
- From this year we will offer two-unit Studies of Religion and Catholic Studies from Year 11.

Obviously this is a very brief overview. We are also interested on the ideas of the parent community regarding how we can improve our programmes to better meet the needs of all of our students and families.