conscientised signs of the times interdependence and global citizenship
engaged inclusive school community sustainable futures foundations peace building and non violence
engaged spirituality spiritual cultivating inner peace inspirations compassionate transformational curriculum ethical identity, reconciliation and cultural diversity social action & solidarity social justice and human rights hopeful

A FRAMEWORK FOR EDUCATING FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

EDMUND RICE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA
STATEMENT ON EDUCATING FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

“Those who teach justice shall be like the stars forever” Daniel 12:3

Edmund Rice Education Australia has a vision for justice and peace for all. Faithful to the call of Jesus and inspired by Edmund Rice, we aspire to offer hope to a world where the dignity of humanity and the integrity of creation is often diminished. We are committed to taking a preferential option for the poor and journeying in solidarity and partnership. Through holistic education we form passionate and compassionate young people who are not only aware of the structures that prevent all creation from being fully alive, but also have the knowledge, skills, attitudes and spirit to act and advocate for a better world for all. We stand in solidarity with Indigenous people of Australia and are inspired and nurtured by the wisdom and experience they have in educating for justice and peace.

Our vision for our students is that they are people who:

- Are ENGAGED in service and solidarity with others, especially those on the margins
- Are CONSCIENTISED to the reality of the world and the root causes of injustice
- Have a deep sense of the SPIRITUAL in their life
- Relate to others in a COMPASSIONATE way
- Take ETHICAL stances in all their endeavours
- Are HOPEFUL that a better world is possible and that they can actively contribute to its realisation

Educating for a better world for all is an honoured vocation that is shared by all members of the school community. It comes alive through:

- The nurturing of an ENGAGED SPIRITUALITY through faith formation experiences and prayer
- A TRANSFORMATIONAL CURRICULUM that is empowering, reflective, rigorous, authentic and promotes justice and peace literacy
- The participation in SOCIAL ACTION AND SOLIDARITY programs in partnership with those on the margins
- The development of an INCLUSIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITY that models justice and peace

The heart of our teaching and learning is informed by reading the signs of the times, reflecting on our spiritual foundations and drawing on the inspiration of individuals and movements that have gone before us and gifted us an inspired legacy.

Aware of both the ongoing struggles and life giving nature of this endeavour, we dedicate ourselves to undertaking the journey of building a better world for all through educating for justice and peace.
“Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace and the joyful celebration of life” The Earth Charter
LEADING AN EDUCATION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

Ten Initiatives for a School Community

Form Collaborative Partnerships
Networks of solidarity between schools and local and global community groups are both mutually supportive and beneficial to educating for justice and peace.

Nurture Spirituality
Linking an education for justice and peace to young people’s spiritual development provides a framework for their reflection and sustenance for their journey.

Mentor Students
Through mentoring and the witness of those who are older, young people are supported to risk engaging in the journey of justice.

Celebrate Past and Present Endeavours
One of the most effective ways of building a culture that is supportive of justice and peace education is to highlight and celebrate past and present endeavours.

Invest in Formation and Professional Development of Staff
Providing opportunities for staff to participate in formation and professional development in justice and peace helps them feel more confident and skilled to undertake innovative approaches to teaching and learning and enables them to become key animators in this area.

Promote a Learning Culture that Nurtures Wisdom
Finding solutions to complex issues in our world requires a highly developed skill base, intellectual ability and deep wisdom. The promotion of academic excellence in isolation to the realities of our world serves narrow outcomes. However, an education that promotes a learning culture for the purpose of forming young people to develop ethical and moral approaches to our world nurtures the development of wisdom people.

Embrace Being Part of a Movement – Shaping History
Schools that view their endeavours as part of a larger movement to build a better world are more engaged, supported, focussed and inspired. Young people are more committed to justice and peace when they feel that their endeavours are helping to shape history.

Promote the Two Feet of Justice – Charity and Systemic Change
Edmund Rice sought to liberate not just individuals through education, but to also change the social structures that kept people poor and marginalised. Our service with others brings us into relationship, and leads us to explore the root causes of injustice and advocate for systemic change.

Embrace Both the Local and Global World
An education for justice and peace enables students to gain an understanding of both local and global justice issues, and the interrelatedness between both.

Cultivate Hope
Schools cultivate hope by celebrating the rich diversity, faith traditions and cultures of the world while rejoicing in the common humanity that underpins these. Presenting positive images of those from the majority world draws people together and encourages all to hope that a better world is possible.

An Authentic Expression of the Charter of Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition
The following documents and frameworks were used for inspiration: Global Education Framework (2007); Guidelines for the Religious Life of the School (2008), Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane; Edmund Rice National Statement of Reconciliation (2003); and Educating for a Culture of Peace Framework (Toh and Cawagas).

Used with permission. Art work: Sieger Köder
© Edmund Rice Education Australia - www.erea.edu.au
For more information contact: jpeducation@erea.edu.au

Environmentally friendly and recycled materials used in this publication