

Soil

Deepening Our Spirituality: Encouraging others to pray and reflect

Roots

Mission: The shared vision of the Brothers and the Network to provide education and formation for all

Vision: The creation of a better world for all

Purpose: To encourage and help others to work for a better world

Gospel Values: The examples we follow set by Jesus

Trunk

Charism: The common links between Edmund Rice and the Network today

Values: The things we think can make the world a better place

Leadership: The role the Network can play in helping people fulfil their potential

Boughs

Presence, Compassion, Liberation: The strapline of the Congregation of Christian Brother since their General Chapter in 2002; by being with people on the margins and acting out of love for them, we can set them free

Branches

Ministries: The activities that go on throughout the Edmund Rice Network in England

Leaves

Growth: The potential we have to keep developing

Connection: The links we have with others working for the same things

Identity: Showing other people who we are

Transformation: Bringing about lasting change locally and globally

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The living, breathing Spirit of Edmund moves through our Network like a gentle wind. It shapes our boughs and branches, strengthens the trunk, and encourages roots that grow ever deeper and stronger in the soil of our spirituality.



Our soil - Deepening Spirituality

Our Network activities grow from soil rich in the nutrients of our shared spirituality. Across our ministries, we acknowledge the need for constant reflection and spiritual sharing. The presence and relevance of our faith-based ethos encourages individuals to explore their own spiritual journey. This creates the conditions in which we flourish.



Our roots - Mission, Vision, Purpose, Gospel Values

Our roots are the foundations for the inspiration and action of our Network. They firmly anchor us in rich soil.

They are;

- the shared Mission of Brothers and Network members to reach out to, and advocate for, those made poor.
- the Vision we promote of a more just world in which every person can experience life fully.
- our Purpose, to facilitate the compassionate action of groups and individuals who can change the world for good.
- the Gospel Values that inform our decisions and inspire our exploration of how we can act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly.



Our trunk - Charism, Values, Leadership

Our trunk is the heart of our Network, providing strength, support and stature.

- It embodies the Charism of the Founder, Blessed Edmund Rice, whose example of faith and generosity inspires us as we seek to live lives of love and service.
- Edmund's legacy inspires our Values of Gospel-centred transformational education for all.
- To allow these to come to fruition, the Network seeks to demonstrate empower Leadership in all who work in Edmund's name, offering them formation, training, guidance and facilitation.



Our boughs - Presence, Compassion, Liberation

Our boughs reflect the three fundamental values of the Congregation of Christian Brothers as they seek to live out the educational philosophy of Blessed Edmund. We recognise the indivisibility of 'Presence, Compassion, Liberation'.

- Presence requires us to 'be with' those we work with and for. It calls us to listen, understand, accept, affirm and protect all people and all of creation.
- Compassion demands that we hear the cry of people made poor and respond with loving action.
- Liberation inspires us to work towards restoring the dignity of all people, recognising their fundamental Human Rights. It affords all people within our Network the freedom to become the person they want be and amplifies the voice of those made poor.



Our branches - Ministries

Our branches represent the diverse range of activities that exist under the canopy of the Network. They have grown naturally from the boughs. They are sustained and nourished by the soil, roots and trunk, and they are the vessels that allow staff, students, parents, Brothers and volunteers to make a difference locally and globally. Our ministries centre around a rights-based approach to education, advocacy, social justice and sustainability. They refer constantly to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, the Eight Essentials of an Edmund Rice Education, and the Priority Areas of Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders. These branches are ever-developing, allowing new shoots to emerge and existing ministries to reach out even further.



Our leaves - Connection, Identity, Growth, Transformation

Our leaves are the products of the sustainable growth of our branches. They are the Connection with our surroundings, breathing our spirit into those whom we encounter so they may witness the Identity of our Network. The leaves represent the Growth of our Network, changing with seasons and conditions, representing the personal Transformation that we believe faith, love and service brings about. They also fall to the ground, nourishing the soil and allowing good seeds to grow.