**School of Sanctuary – ERST**

**What is a School of Sanctuary?**

A School of Sanctuary is a school that is committed to creating a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment that benefits everybody, including anyone in its community who is seeking sanctuary. It is a school that helps it students, staff, parents and the wider community to understand what it means to be seeking sanctuary, and to extend a welcome to all.

Coláiste Choilm ERST belongs to the Edmund Rice community of schools and this year we are working to develop a *School of Sanctuary* through initiatives such as Jigsaw Peer Education, the Pieta House Amber Flag, Wellbeing Wednesdays, and having a Wellness Wall.

Mount Sion CBS which was founded by Blessed Edmund Rice in 1802 became Ireland’s first ‘School of Sanctuary’ in October 2020.

Link to Irish Catholic news article on School of Sanctuary in Mount Sion

https://www.irishcatholic.com/waterford-christian-brother-school-first-school-of-sanctuary/

Link to RTE website on School of Sanctuary in Mount Sion

https://www.rte.ie/news/munster/2020/1216/1184862-mount-sion-sanctuary/