



ROISIN MAGUIRE AWARDED AN MBE THANKS TO COUNTY FERMANAGH MOTHER



Roisin Maguire at Birches Head with Headteacher Katie Dixon



Roisin Maguire before flying out to Sierra Leone with a party of sixth form volunteers.



Roisin Maguire pioneered a return to traditional values.

The award of an MBE for former Stoke Headteacher Roisin Maguire was a bitter sweet moment as she remembered her impoverished childhood in County Fermanagh.

Now Director of Education for the Edmund Rice Schools Office based in Hale Barns Cheshire, the charismatic and innovative leader, said: "My first thought was I only wish my mother was alive. She died in January almost one year ago now at the age of 95, but what a life she had led. Widowed at 37, she raised eight children under the age of 10 and always taught us the way to improve your lot was through education. She made me believe anything was possible and that every obstacle could be overcome and I have taken every word she said to me and passed them to my pupils throughout my career."

Roisin, who is married to Chris with one adult daughter and lives in Nantwich, attended the Lourdes Grammar School in Enniskillen. She was for 13 years the ground breaking headteacher at St. Joseph's College in Stoke, pioneering a return to traditional values allied to the deployment of the latest classroom technology and methods to transform the Catholic college into city's first OFSTED rated 'Outstanding' secondary school.

As an Executive Head she then helped both Thistley Hough and Birches Head Academies to come out of special measures and transform their approach and results.

Roisin said: "I feel very humbled because all I was doing was my job and I feel very privileged to have worked with the magnificent staff at St. Joseph's, Thistley Hough and Birches Head. I believe working with young people is the best job in the world and I have enjoyed a wonderful career that needs no reward, though I am deeply honoured to accept."

Roisin has also been instrumental in raising many millions to help children in war torn and disease stricken Sierra Leone and was a key member of the team who established Stoke's maths excellence partnership working with Keele University and all the secondary schools in Stoke with funding from city council and the Denise Coates Foundation to improve the quality of Maths teaching in the city.

Now working with the Christian Brothers, she has a renewed zeal for the challenges ahead "At the heart of the Edmund Rice mission is a desire to reach out to the marginalised, to promote social awareness in our young people so they can have the authority and confidence to make the necessary changes in the world."

Ms Maguire added: "With the recent political changes across the world I feel it is more incumbent than ever on the individual to help the less fortunate because it now appears some governments no longer see it as a priority or, what is worse, even their duty."

Ms Maguire said: "Edmund Rice schools have a wonderful record of helping the marginalised not just in Britain and Ireland, but across the globe and I want us to be part of an international movement covering the many thousands of pupils in some 200 schools worldwide."

She said: "We want to develop global citizens who are not content to sit back on their success in the First World but want to be advocates for those who are less fortunate, who want to reach out and help those struggling in the Developing World."