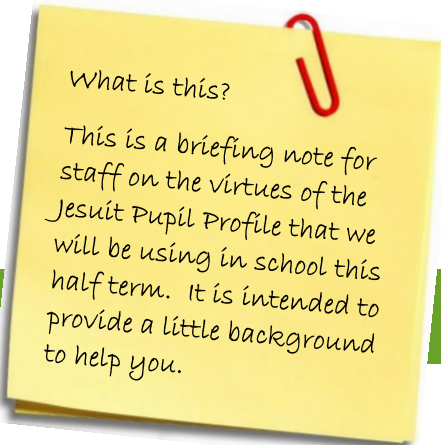




# JESUIT PUPIL PROFILE

## Grateful & Generous



Pupils in a Jesuit school are growing to be **grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, becoming men and women for others.

Jesuit schools help their pupils grow by encouraging them to know and be **grateful** for all their gifts, developing them to the full so that they can be **generous** in the service of others.

**Gratitude** is always Saint Ignatius' starting point. Before we reflect or pray, discern or make a decision, begin a new day, or embark on anything important, he calls on us to remember everything that we have to be grateful for. His little daily spiritual exercise, the *examen*, begins with gratitude.



"If the only prayer you said was 'Thank you', that would be enough."

Meister Eckhart OP (1260-1328)

If you are attentive to your own responses to what happens in your daily life, you will probably notice that a lot of it is down to a feeling of entitlement – a feeling that I am due certain things, courtesies, privileges, comforts, rewards, breaks. Ignatius wants us to think and feel in a different way. Instead of insisting on your entitlements, consider rather what has already been gifted to you: your health and family, shelter and security, enough to eat,

plentiful clean water, friends, freedom, the rights and protection of the law, your education, talents and pastimes, the love of God in Jesus Christ, and all the small daily blessings that, when noticed, bring joy to life.

Just as Ignatius begins his *Spiritual Exercises* with gratitude, so he concludes them with **generosity**. As we become more practised at being grateful, we realize just how gifted and blessed we are, often without really deserving it. Out of this growing realization comes a powerful desire to be generous, "to give and not to count the cost." Generosity is the inevitable consequence of the practice of gratitude.



Lord, teach me to be generous, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and to ask for no reward, save that of knowing I do your will."

Jacques Sevin SJ (1887-1951)

St Ignatius had an important principle that deeds were more important than words (*Spiritual Exercises* n.230) and so, for him, generosity will show itself better in the things we do for others than in what we say. More often than not, it is the small acts of daily kindness and generosity, putting others before ourselves, which have a greater and deeper impact than the occasional grand gesture.



“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”

John Bunyan (1628-88)

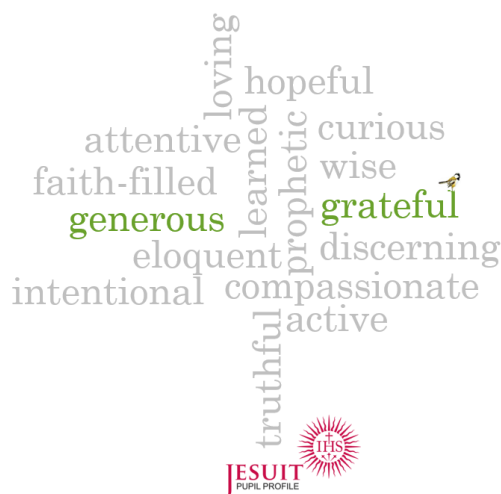
People who lack generosity are often fearful that they will lose something by giving and be diminished. But those who have experienced the freedom of being generous discover that the opposite is true. The more you give, the more will be given you (Luke 6:38). Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, “Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by

what you have left.” This is what it means to be big-hearted and truly generous.

**Gratitude** and **generosity** are the virtues which underlie an attitude to life that is outward looking, regards other people as precious gifts, and encourages young people to grow to be men and women for others.

### Questions for reflection . . .

1. What does a well-educated person look like?
2. Does your school have a *magis* curriculum which offers a greater breadth of subjects?
3. Does your school promote a ‘culture of learning’ and often recognize intellectual achievement? How?
4. How do children learn to be wise and how can your school encourage the growth of wisdom?



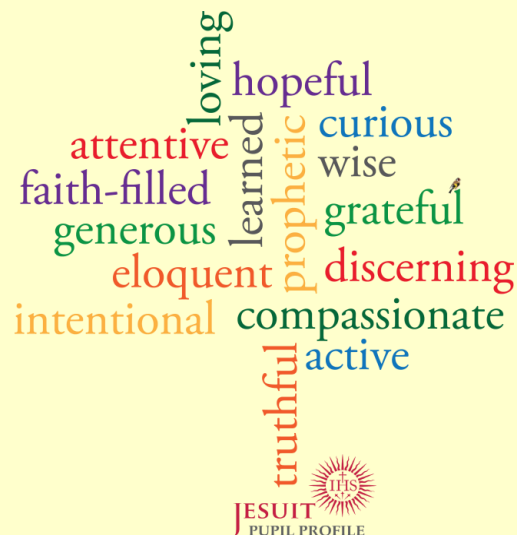
# Jesuit Pupil Profile

## What is the Jesuit Pupil Profile?

The JPP consists of eight statements, each containing two key virtues or characteristics. These virtues come from the gospels and from the Ignatian spiritual tradition on which Jesuit schools are founded. Many other Catholic schools have seen in the JPP a tool which they can adopt and adapt to articulate their own values and virtues. The values are not, of course, unique to Jesuit or to Catholic schools – these words come from our tradition but are fundamentally human virtues shared by all human beings. They express what it is to be a good person living a virtuous life.

## Where does it come from?

The JPP grew out of reflection and work done in the Jesuit schools to try to articulate the values and virtues the schools were aspiring to develop in their pupils. The JPP is what the school proposes to each of its pupils: We think this is what a well-educated and good person who can make a difference to the world looks like. What do you think? What kind of person do you want to be?



## How do I use the JPP in the classroom?

The JPP works when teachers and other staff are attentive to and notice pupils' positive behaviour. When a child does or says something that reflects one of the virtues of the JPP, the teacher comments on it (either publically or privately) and, by doing so, encourages and reinforces that behaviour. In this way, young people learn virtue and grow into the kind of people we hope they will be, and God calls them to be.

## Why focus on one pair of virtues this half-term?

Schools have found it helpful to focus on one pair of virtues each half term but this must always be done against the background of promoting all the virtues, all the time – don't put being compassionate and loving on hold because you are doing intentional and prophetic this half-term!

## Where can I find out more?

There is a booklet which will give you a lot more information about the JPP. It is called *Jesuit Pupil Profile: Virtue and Learning in the Ignatian Tradition*. Your Headteacher or Chaplain will be able to give you a copy. You can also search the Jesuit Institute website: [jesuitinstitute.org](http://jesuitinstitute.org)