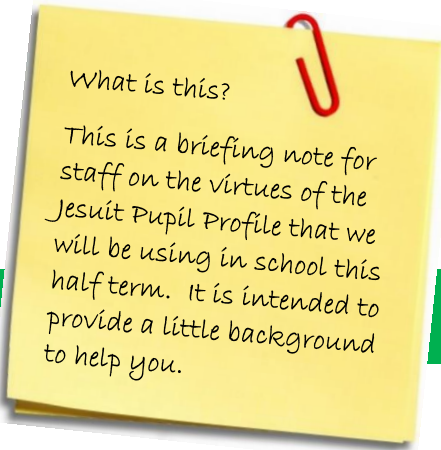




JESUIT PUPIL PROFILE

Compassionate & Loving



Pupils in a Jesuit school are growing to be **compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by their just actions and forgiving words.

Jesuit schools help their pupils grow by being **compassionate** and **loving** in the way pupils are treated, especially when a pupil is in trouble; and by opening pupils' eyes to those who suffer poverty, injustice or violence.

The word **compassion** comes from two Latin words: *cum* meaning *with* and *passio* meaning *to change*, especially in the sense of *suffering* adverse change.



“We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45)

things from other points of view, even ones to which I may not be particularly sympathetic. In the Christian tradition, it is never enough simply to be attentive: we must allow ourselves to be moved by what we see, especially by the plight of those who suffer or are less fortunate than we are.

Getting children to stop and notice how others are experiencing their lives, and how they feel, and why they say and believe what they do, is an important aspect of parenting and teaching. Ultimately, it is what makes us kind and, at a deeper level, opens up the possibility of being **loving** through our just and merciful actions and forgiving words.

To be compassionate is to experience suffering or change alongside someone else – to listen to their cares and concerns and to share their joys and sorrows (CJE n.43), to see the world through their eyes, to step into their shoes, to empathize.

Being able to empathize is a virtue very necessary for being a good human being. To live successfully in a family, or a school community, or workplace, or in wider society, means being able to see, understand and feel

Jesus' great commandment is “Love one another.” (John 13:34) The more we love others, the more we are truly human and most truly ourselves.

Love is something that is learned not by being taught but by having first experienced it for ourselves. Parents are the first and best teachers by what they say and do. (Rite of Baptism) The most important lesson they teach their children is love. It is by being loved that we learn to love.



“I give you a new commandment: that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples.”

Jesus in John’s Gospel 13:34-35

Schools can also show children people, living and dead, who exemplify these virtues and, conversely, show situations where their opposites have done terrible damage to people and society. In an educational context, we should take children to horizons of experience that may be very unfamiliar to them and give them perspectives which allow them to see the world as the **compassionate** and **loving** God sees it, “gazing down on the face and circuit of the earth and deciding to work the redemption of the human race.”

(Spiritual Exercises n.106-7)

Of course, it is easy to love those who love us. In speaking about love, Jesus throws out the challenge to take love deeper: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, ‘Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.’” (Matthew 5:43-44) This is where love becomes challenging. To love in this way is to love as God loves.

Schools build on the foundations laid by parents. By building up communities characterised by compassion and love, schools create the context in which children can learn and acquire these virtues for themselves.

Questions for reflection . . .

1. Do you create imaginative opportunities for your pupils to step into the shoes of others (the homeless, refugees, people with disability, the poor, the marginalized, etc.)?
2. Are questions of social justice raised? How?
3. How does your school show compassion within its own community? Especially to those in trouble or need?



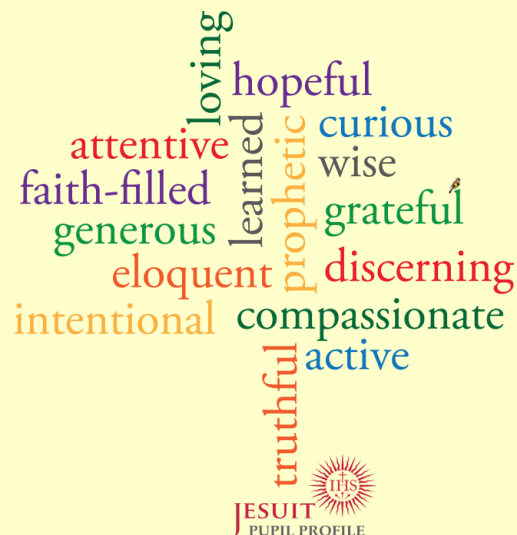
Jesuit Pupil Profile

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