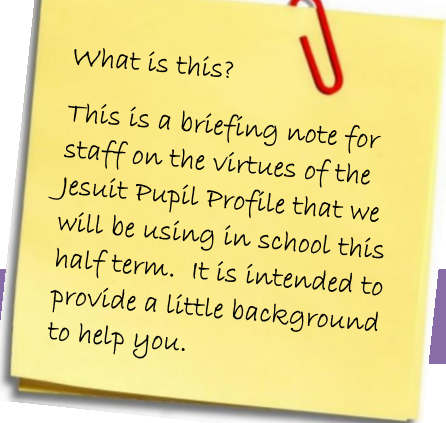




JESUIT PUPIL PROFILE

Faith-filled & Hopeful



Pupils in a Jesuit school are growing to be **faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future.

Jesuit schools help their pupils grow by passing on the living and **faith-filled** tradition of Jesus Christ; by having persevering **faith** in the pupils, and by encouraging them, in turn, to have **faith** and **hope** in others.

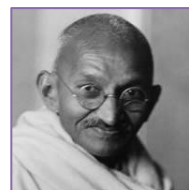
Faith, **hope** and love are known to the Christian tradition as the three *theological virtues*. They underpin our whole understanding of what it is to be human and the nature of our relationship with God.

We have **faith** in those who are closest to us – our family and friends. This **faith** grows and deepens over time and as our relationships are tested, sometimes knocked and rebuilt with forgiveness, so they become stronger and more resilient.

We need to have **faith** in ourselves – that appropriate self-confidence and modest self-esteem which reflect a realistic self-knowledge of the good and not-so-good in us. **Faith** in ourselves is about integrity.

We should also have **faith** in the communities to which we belong – our neighbourhood, parish, school, wider society, our country and the international family of all humanity. This **faith** grows only to the extent to which we engage in and contribute to the

common good. It is about having a wider perspective than the just the narrow concerns of our daily lives.



“You must not lose **faith** in humanity. Humanity is like an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.”

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

And finally, God invites us to have **faith** in him and in his son, Jesus Christ. This **faith** grows if we work at a relationship with God in prayer, by trying to live out the gospel values, and by being part of a community of faith. Teachers in a Catholic school have the responsibility of passing on the living **faith** story of Christianity handed down in the collective memory of God’s people.



To be **faith-filled** is crucial to human wellbeing – **faith** in myself, my emotions and judgements; **faith** in others and their **faith** in me; **faith** in my family and the communities to which I belong; and, ultimately, **faith** in God. **Faith** cannot be taken for granted; it has to be revisited constantly and built up day by day.

Hope is perhaps the most elusive of virtues. It grows out of **faith** and love – the stronger **faith** and love are, the stronger our

hope will be. When we have strong **faith** and love today, we have **hope** for tomorrow. **Hope** enables us to trust ourselves and those around us with the decisions that will shape our future. Without **hope** we become insular, lacking in love, and ultimately despairing. Christianity teaches that God is a God of **hope**: his Christ walks before us, giving us the gifts (the *graces*) and courage we need to follow.

Children learn to **hope** by seeing and hearing **hope-filled** adults. They learn

not to be frightened to step out into the darkness of the unknown but to draw on their own character strengths, and of those around them, to face challenges with courage and resolve.

The artist Edward Burne Jones (1833-98) portrays **hope** as an imprisoned woman reaching up into a heaven which bends down, overlapping and overcoming the bars of her prison cell, pouring its energy and colour into her very clothing, the **hope** of freedom and a better future.



“When you walk to the edge of all the light you have and take that first step into the darkness of the unknown, you must believe that one of two things will happen.



There will be something solid for you to stand upon or you will be taught to fly.”

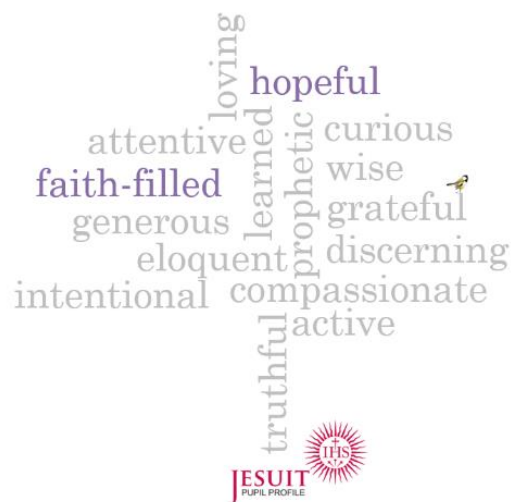
Patrick Overton, *The Learning Tree* (1975)



Our challenge in schools is to notice when children drift into lack of **faith** and **hope**, when they begin to create prison bars for themselves; and then to step in with encouragement, opening new doors to a better way forward in freedom.

Questions for reflection . . .

1. Does your school give hope by persistently building up the faith of pupils in themselves and in others? How do you build community?
2. Does the school faithfully pass on the living Christian tradition? Does it really put Christ at the centre of everything it does?
3. How do you notice when pupils lack faith and hope? And what do you do about it?



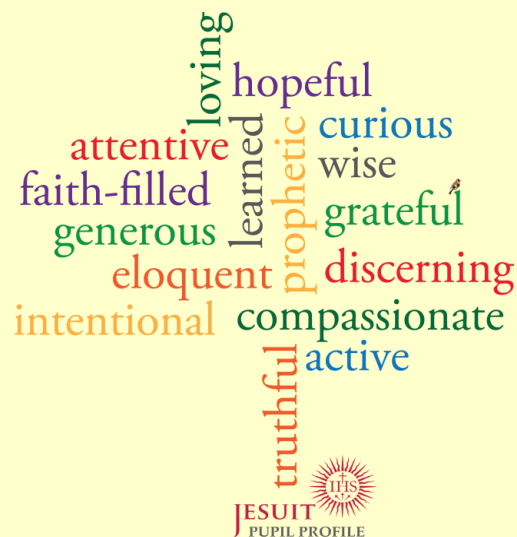
Jesuit Pupil Profile

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