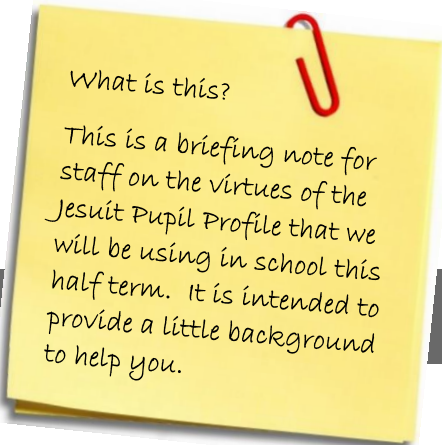




JESUIT PUPIL PROFILE

Learned & Wise



Pupils in a Jesuit school are growing to be **learned**, finding God in all things; and **wise** in the ways they use their learning for the common good.

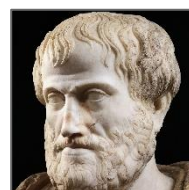
Jesuit schools help their pupils grow by the breadth and depth of the curriculum; by excellence of teaching, and the creation of opportunities to become more **learned** and **wise**.

The first Jesuit educators saw education as a way of becoming more human. Their curriculum and teaching method was a Christian version of renaissance humanism, which set out to find God in all things. They believed that by studying the writings of the classical authors you became both a **learned** and a good person and, importantly, a good citizen. They pioneered science in their schools and universities, seeking to share with their students their own research into how the universe, the earth, life and human beings worked.

Classical and contemporary languages were important too, as they were key to understanding different cultures and sharing the best from each. The aim of Jesuit education was the **learned** and eloquent person, the 'Renaissance Man', able to make a difference in society for the common good. Still today, in Jesuit education 'knowledge is joined to virtue.' (*The Characteristics of Jesuit Education* n.51)

Jesuit schools continue the tradition of excellence in learning – making sure that each pupil is engaged, stretched and inspired to excel by outstanding teaching and by offering

the broadest possible curriculum, supplemented by a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Academic excellence in a Jesuit school is understood 'within the larger context of human excellence.' (CJE 113) Jesuit education develops 'the qualities of mind and heart that will enable pupils to work with others for the good of all in the service of the Kingdom of God.' (CJE n.110)



"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom."

Aristotle (384-22BC)



The traditional method of Jesuit teaching, rooted in Ignatius' own experience, begins by being attentive to the experience a pupil already has of whatever is to be learned. Reflection then builds on that experience, extending and deepening it by what is taught

and learned. Out of this learning comes action. Education in the Jesuit tradition always has a purpose which is about the common good – doing something here and now which, little by little, transforms the world.

learned

learned: scholarly, erudite, well educated, knowledgeable, well read, widely read, well versed, well informed, competent, lettered, articulate, cultured, cultivated, civilized, eloquent, intellectual, intelligent, clever, academic, literary, studious, sage, wise, curious, inquisitive, discerning, enlightened.

However, for knowledge and learning to be put to best effect, it is necessary also to be **wise**. Wisdom is the gift of knowing when and how to apply one's learning; it is the ability 'to evaluate relative goods and competing values.' (CJE n.55); it is to be able to discern what is important and what is not.

In the ancient world, those who sought wisdom from the Oracle at Delphi were met with an inscription above the door: 'Know yourself' (Greek: γνῶθι σεαυτόν, gnothi seauton). Wisdom is founded in the idea of

knowing yourself well – your weaknesses, prejudices and blindspots as well as your strengths, talents, and enthusiasms.

Jesuit schools constantly encourage pupils to know themselves better. This self-knowledge includes the intellectual, the emotional and social, the aesthetic and creative, the spiritual and physical. By 'the fullest possible development of each person's individual capacities' our pupils become **learned** and **wise** so they can 'use those developed gifts for others.' (CJE n.109)

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?

loving
hopeful
attentive
faith-filled
generous
eloquent
intentional
truthful
learned
prophetic
curious
wise
grateful
discerning
compassionate
active

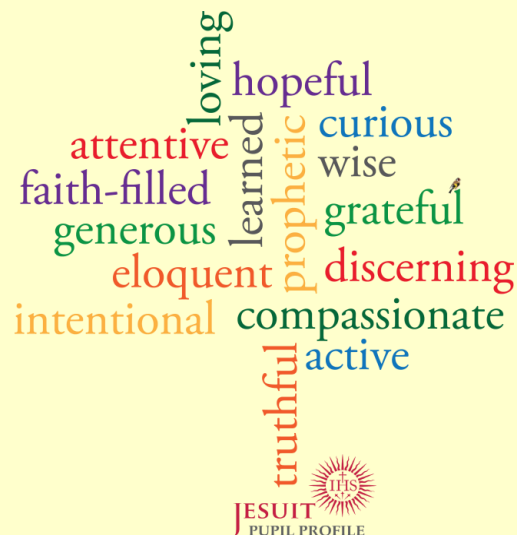
Jesuit Pupil Profile

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