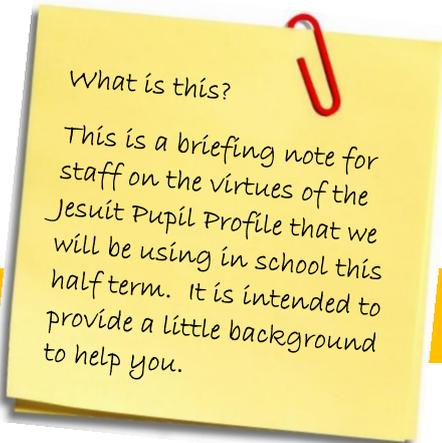


JESUIT PUPIL PROFILE

Intentional & Prophetic



Pupils in a Jesuit school are growing to be **intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.

Jesuit schools help their pupils grow by being communities which are **intentional** in their way of proceeding to build-up quality of life; and which are **prophetic** in the way they offer an alternative vision of education and the human person, rooted in the gospel.

An **intentional** person is someone who lives deliberately; someone who builds up their own worldview and then tries to live by it. To live intentionally is to march to the beat of a different drummer.

The busy-ness of life can sometimes feel overwhelming. It is no different for young people: demands made by schoolwork and examinations, the many activities to which their parents ferry them, peer pressure and social media, and just growing up and finding their place in an increasingly complex and fractured world. Of course there is excitement and often fulfilment in all this. But the pressure to conform and go along with what everyone else thinks and says and does is immense. The effect is to lose control – a feeling that this whirl of activity is not allowing me to be me.

Living intentionally is not about stepping away from the world but is rather about trying to achieve a balance where you know what is important for you and what you want to spend your time and energies doing. Living intentionally can only happen if one is attentive to one's experience, noticing the

influences which drive us along and discerning which are good and which not so good, guided by conscience. It means living ethically, with a set of values.



“If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer.”

Henry David Thoreau (1817-62)



Jesus Christ was a person who lived intentionally and is a model of a good human life. (cf. *The Characteristics of Jesuit Education* n.61) His words, actions and example reflect his values.

Intentional living is about the choices I make and the ethical code I live by. But this can have a positive impact on others if I share it. Being **prophetic** is about being seen to do good and

about speaking out for what is right. Good news is only good news if it is announced.

“I choose . . .
to live by choice, not by chance;
to be motivated, not manipulated;
to be useful, not used;
to make changes, not excuses;
to excel, not compete.
I choose self-esteem, not self-pity;
I choose to listen to my inner voice,
not to the opinion of others.”

anonymous

Being prophetic isn't about telling the future; it is about living out God's future for me today.

However much the values of the world, the assumptions and prejudices of those around us, seem to be unassailable, Christ calls us in a different direction to a life characterized by compassion, faith, hope and, above all, love. Trying to live in an **intentional** and **prophetic** way is what ultimately makes us human.

What is intentional behaviour?

Intentional behaviour is when a pupil makes a deliberate, well-thought-out, decision for themselves. This may be a decision that is different, and better in some way, than the decisions others have made.

Intentional behaviour is when a young person begins to think-through the kind of person they want to be, the things and values that are important to them, and how they want to live; and then they begin to act and speak in a way that is consistent with their values.

This can sound very grand, but it begins and grows out of the little everyday decisions that we all make. These are the things that the JPP calls on teachers to notice, comment upon and

reinforce. You begin to be intentional about saving the planet by first switching off the lights and closing the windows when leaving a room. You begin to make generosity an intentional value by making a little extra time for the people that matter in your life, or trying to do one small random act of kindness each day. You begin to make compassion part of your character by taking time to see things from another's point of view when a disagreement arises.

What is prophetic behaviour?

The idea of behaving prophetically has a long history in Judaism and Christianity. It is about showing what you believe by your actions and your words.

Encouraging children to be prophetic is about getting them to share their values and ideas, to be open and honest about what they believe in (what they have faith in). In this way they encourage these good things in others. It is not about showing-off but about being persistently and quietly confident in standing up for the values you hold and living out those values with integrity even when it is difficult to do so.



“Christ has no body on earth now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on the world; yours are the feet with which he walks to do good; yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.”

St Teresa of of Ávila (1515-82)

To do this with children and young people means:

- encouraging them to share their ideas and values, especially about important things (such as the way we treat each other, and people who are different; the way we behave, especially when no one is looking; the way we look after the planet and our immediate environment).
- ensuring the school and your classroom is a safe place where children can explore their ideas and values and be gently challenged to think better, aspire to the greater, and do more (this is the Ignatian idea of the 'magis')
- making sure the school, its staff, and you yourself, speak and act prophetically, doing what you can to change the world, or just a very small part of it (such as with your pupils in your classroom) for the better.

Being prophetic isn't about telling the future. It is about making a hope-filled future present today.

Questions for reflection . . .

1. Are your pupils introduced to people, living and dead, who exemplify what it means to live intentionally?
2. Are alternative ways of living, including the Christian way, presented to pupils at key moments in their school lives?
3. Does your school create opportunities for individuals and groups to be prophetic about things that matter?



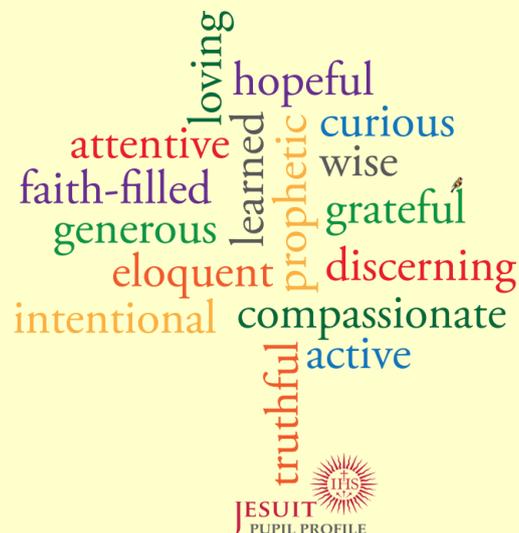
Jesuit Pupil Profile

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