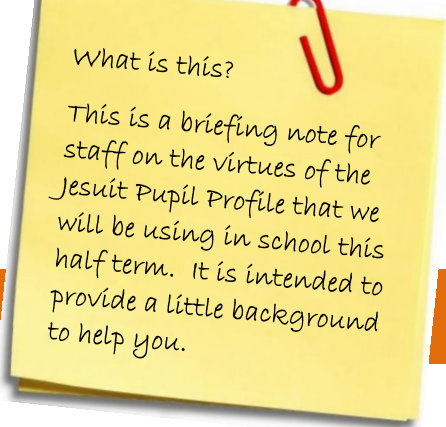


JESUIT PUPIL PROFILE

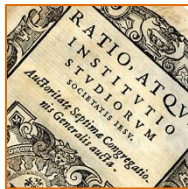
Eloquent & Truthful



Pupils in a Jesuit school are growing to be **eloquent** and **truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

Jesuit schools help their pupils grow by developing an **eloquent** language which pupils can use to understand and articulate their emotions, beliefs, and questions, encouraged by the example of their teachers to be **truthful** in the way they represent themselves and speak about the world.

If you had asked anyone familiar with Jesuit schools and universities in the first two centuries of their existence what the distinctive characteristic of Jesuit education was, they would have replied **eloquence**.



Jesuit schools “aim at an education in perfect eloquence . . . for speaking, for style, and for scholarly learning.”

The Jesuit *Ratio Studiorum* (1599)



We don’t often talk about this virtue today. And yet eloquence was at the heart of the Jesuit educational mission – to make sure young people had the language to ask questions, express emotions, speak beliefs, talk about matters of faith and hope, debate points of view, and engage in conversation. Those first Jesuit educators recognized that lack of vocabulary and linguistic skills are a form of human impoverishment. My ability to speak competently my own language, and

the languages of others, is fundamental to my growth and confidence as a social human being.

Eloquence is not confined to speaking – it finds expression in writing, music, drama, dance, the creative arts, design, film, digital media, and sport. All of these are important to Jesuit education because they encourage children to express their identity as well as their talents.

However, being able to speak well is not much use if what you speak is not worth saying. Eloquence must be used in a **truthful** way – to speak truth about myself and others, about relations between people, about the world, and about God. Education is the search for truth and the eloquent articulation of what we discover. As Jesus tells us, “The truth will set you free.” (John 8:32)

Knowing the truth about some thing or situation or person is what sets you free to see clearly and know surely. It is what allows us to grow as individuals and as a society. Promoting the virtue of truth in our schools is not simply about teaching children not to lie, important though that is, it is about

teaching them to seek the deeper truth, the more nuanced expression, the better account of something.

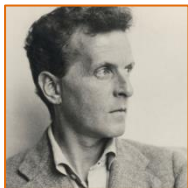


“If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end. If you look for comfort, you will not get either comfort or truth, only wishful thinking and, in the end, despair.”

C S Lewis (1898-1963)



Our contemporary culture seems obsessed with the quick and easy, the instant sound bite; there is a temptation to settle for the trite and superficial.



“The limits of my language are the limits of my world.”

Ludwig Wittgenstein
(1889-1951)



The virtue of being truthful seeks, in contrast, to speak the truth in all its depth, complexity, messiness, and uncertainty. This is the Ignatian *magis* in action – seeking the *more*.

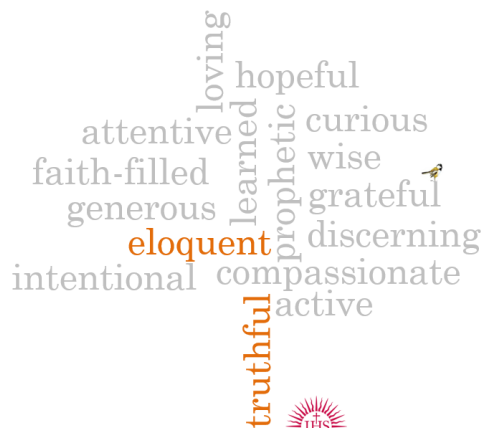
Some Jesuit schools use traditional class names (Elements, Rudiments, Grammar, Syntax, Poetry and Rhetoric) from the renaissance curriculum. Rhetoric is the final year of school education and the aim of all that has gone before: that, as they leave our schools, pupils can speak well and move and persuade others by their **eloquence** and **truth**.

Questions for reflection . . .

1. How do you set out to widen your pupils' vocabulary and deepen their language?
2. Are there opportunities for pupils to be eloquent in different ways (eg. public speaking, drama, dance or music, art and digital media)?
3. Do you encourage pupils to seek the deeper truth? And to ask the question 'Why?'

The *Magis*

The '*magis*' is a key idea in the spirituality of St Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556). It is a Latin word meaning 'more'. Following the *magis* means going deeper, being more imaginative, seeking greater integrity, and making a greater impact than might otherwise be expected, all for the greater glory of God and the common good.



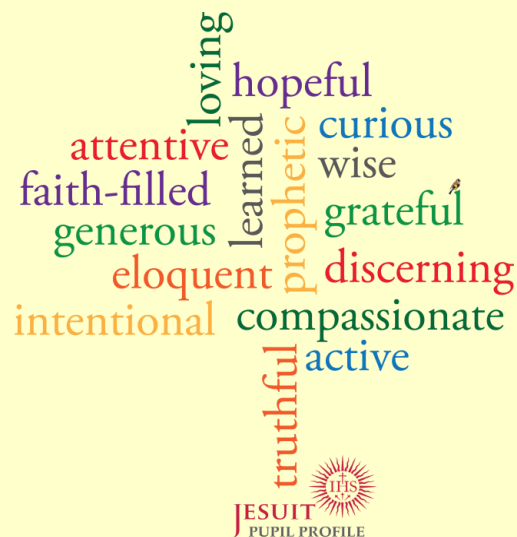
Jesuit Pupil Profile

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