

AMDG to LDS

An Overview of Jesuit Education

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AMDG (*ad maiorem dei gloriam* = for the greater glory of God) is the unofficial motto of the Society of Jesus and Jesuit schools. Pupils write it at the top of their work. It is in St Ignatius definition of Jesuit education as 'living and learning for the greater glory of God and the common good' (cf. *Constitutions* n.440). AMDG links to another Jesuit monogram, LDS (*laus deo semper* = praise to God always), which derives from an important passage in the *Spiritual Exercises* (1548) of St Ignatius where he speaks about the ultimate purpose of human beings who are 'created to praise, reverence and serve God our Lord and, by so doing, to save our souls.' (*Spiritual Exercises* n.23).

Jesuit schools should be places where . . .

This statement about Jesuit schools comes from the *Ignatian Pedagogy* document (1993) and sets out a vision for all Jesuit schools which is both inspirational and very practical in its challenge to serve those in greater (this is the fundamental Ignatian idea of the *magis* or 'more') need.

Identity, mission and community

Jesuit schools have developed a template for articulating their distinctive character or ethos as Jesuit schools. This template talks about the identity of Jesuit schools being Ignatian, their mission being Christ's mission found in the gospels, and the school communities being catholic communities ('catholic' means 'universal' and inclusive). This template comes from the documents of the 35th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus held in 2008 (cf. Decree 2.19).

The characteristics of Jesuit education

The Characteristics of Jesuit Education (1986) is the official document that describes in detail the distinctive 'way of proceeding' of Jesuit schools. Five key points are highlighted here: intellectual formation, *magis* curriculum, religious formation, pastoral care, and perspectives and horizons. The last point was developed and presented as a challenge to Jesuit schools by Fr General Adolfo Nicolás on his visit to Britain in 2011.

Ignatian pedagogy

Ignatian pedagogy is the Jesuit method of teaching and learning. Three distinctive strands (experience – reflection – action) comprise the traditional Jesuit way of teaching. This method is set out in detail in the document *Ignatian Pedagogy – A Practical Approach* (1993).

Jesuit Pupil Profile

The *Jesuit Pupil Profile* (2013) has been developed in the Jesuit schools in Britain as a way of articulating and putting into action the virtues we aim to grow in our pupils. It responds to Pope Benedict's question to young people when he visited Britain in 2010, 'What kind of person do you want to be?' The eight pairs of virtues come from the gospel, and from the Ignatian spiritual and educational traditions.

AMDG

The purpose of Jesuit schools is “improvement in **living and learning** for the greater glory of God and the common good.”



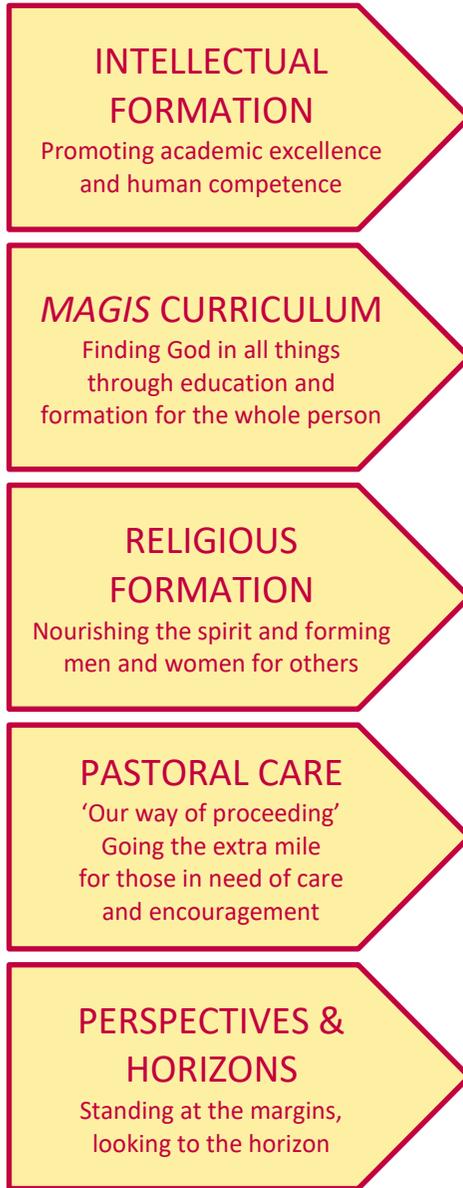
St Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), *Jesuit Constitutions* n.440



“Jesuit schools should be places where people are believed in, honoured and cared for; where natural talents and creative abilities are recognized and celebrated; where individual contributions and accomplishments are appreciated; where everyone is treated fairly and justly; where sacrifice on behalf of the economically poor, the socially deprived, and the educationally disadvantaged is commonplace; where each of us finds the challenge, encouragement and support we need to reach our fullest individual potential for excellence; where we help one another and work together with enthusiasm and generosity, attempting to model concretely in word and action the ideals we uphold.”

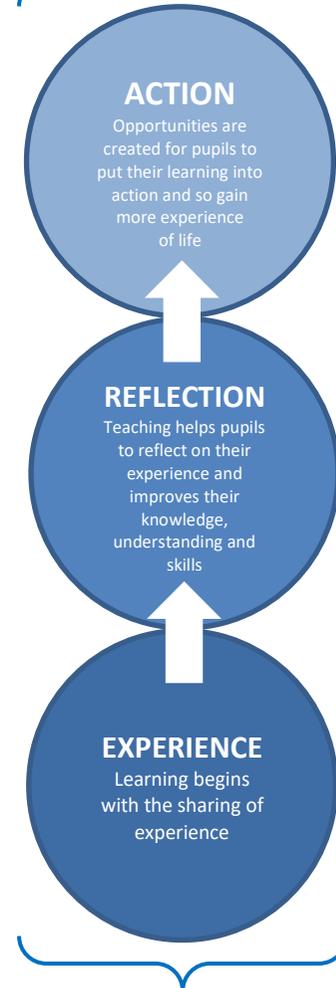
Ignatian Pedagogy (1993) n.37

Jesuit schools are **Catholic communities** characterized by their **Christian mission and Ignatian identity.**



Using an Ignatian method of teaching & learning . . .

Teachers in Jesuit schools **EVALUATE** the effectiveness of teaching and learning



Teachers in Jesuit schools understand the **CONTEXT** of pupils’ learning

Jesuit schools help pupils grow to be . . .



“We are created to praise, reverence and serve God our Lord and, by so doing, to save our souls.”

St Ignatius Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises* n.23

A vision for Jesuit schools worldwide is set out in *The Characteristics of Jesuit Education* (1986)

The Jesuit method of teaching and learning is set out in *Ignatian Pedagogy* (1993)

The aims of Jesuit education & formation are set out in the *Jesuit Pupil Profile* (2013)

LDS