



Working in a
Jesuit School

If you work at a Jesuit school in Britain you are part of a wonderfully rich educational tradition that is five centuries old and spans the globe.

The Society of Jesus, founded by St Ignatius Loyola in 1548 in Messina, Sicily, and today there are over 2,000 Jesuit and associated schools, large and small, in almost every country in the world, working with over one million young people. As a global organisation with a worldwide mission, whichever Jesuit school you work in, in whatever part of the world, you will have shared goals and be supported in your common mission. These goals can be summarised in the following way.

Jesuit schools are committed to developing excellence in young people. Whilst we want every young person to achieve their academic potential, there is more to being human than passing exams. We encourage our students to develop deep-rooted qualities of both heart and mind, and to be compassionate and committed to working for a just world. A Jesuit school is judged not simply by its academic results but also by how its school leavers grow to be women and men of conscience, compassion, commitment, and competence. This is often referred to as the 4 Cs.

Concern for social justice is a key priority. In school we provide opportunities for students to reflect on injustice, to develop their conscience and to make informed choices. When and where possible these choices should lead to action in school, in local communities, and in wider society. A particular concern for all Jesuit schools is care for creation and ecological concerns.





We live in a plural society and world, and this diversity and difference is welcomed and understood in our school communities as gifts to be celebrated in order to create a more inclusive society.

Like all good schools we seek to build strong and caring communities, but in Jesuit schools we have a particular commitment to caring for the individual, both staff and young people. The term that is used to describe this care is *cura personalis*. Ideally, our schools “should be places where people are believed in, honoured and cared for; where individual contributions and accomplishments are appreciated; where everyone is treated fairly and justly; 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”. *Ignatian Pedagogy* (1993), 37.

Jesuit schools are Catholic, and like Catholic schools throughout the world we share a commitment to helping parents bring up their children, encouraging reflection, prayer, religious commitment, and service to others. In this we are inspired by and faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We welcome those who are Catholic, or from other Christian Churches, and those who belong to other faith or religious traditions or are of no religious tradition. Anyone who wishes to teach or learn at one of our schools must respect our religious foundation and come with an open mind ready to appreciate and learn from the Christian message and that of other traditions.



Working in a Jesuit school in Britain will hopefully be a rewarding and fulfilling personal and professional experience. Our schools are committed to helping you develop and grow, and training is offered to staff to help appreciate the distinctive Jesuit approach to education.

To sum up, this is what we are looking for in our teachers:

- ▶ a deep interest in helping young people learn;
- ▶ concern for social justice and care of creation;
- ▶ appreciation of diversity and difference;
- ▶ the ability to form meaningful relationships with colleagues and students;
- ▶ willingness to reflect on experience, and to be open to the Christian message;
- ▶ an understanding of teaching as a vocation with a desire to make a difference;
- ▶ for “the proper education of youth will mean improvement for the whole world” – Pedro Ribadeneria SJ (1527-1611), one of the first Jesuits.

