# SCHOOL COUNCIL
## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

### Council functions
- **take part in:**
  - establishing and reviewing the school’s objectives, priorities and general policy directions;
  - the planning of financial arrangements necessary to fund them;
  - evaluating the school’s performance in achieving them; and
  - formulating codes of conduct for students at the school.
- **also:**
  - approve contributions and charges;
  - develop a dress code in consultation with parents and staff;
  - provide advice to the Principal on religious education;
  - promote the School in the community.

### Meetings
- **School Council** is required to meet a minimum of 4 times per year
- **2015:** 6 general meetings (+ today’s APM) and there will be one further general meeting later this term.
  - Working Party meetings in addition as needed

### Membership
- **Chair:** Kati Tonkin (Community Rep.); re-appointed for another three year term in September
- **Secretary:** Victoria Bingham (Community Rep.)
- **Staff Reps:** Karen Lockyer (Principal); Sharon Downsborough; Andrew Streeton; Robyn Newman
- **Parent Reps:**
  - Cam Brooks, James Hawkes, Jane Forward
  - members are appointed/elected for three year terms
- **vacancies 2016:** 3 Parent Reps. (April); 1 Community Rep. (September)

### School planning documents endorsed
- Annual Report 2014 (meeting 2/2015 = March)
- Budget 2015 (meeting 2/2015 = March)
- School Improvement Plan 2015 (meeting 4/2015 = June)
### Main business in 2015

- **Religious Education Policy:**
  - After extensive community consultation in the latter part of 2014, School Council drafted the Religious Education Policy in first term and circulated it for community feedback.
  - Endorsed (March).
- **Vision/Mission/Values:**
  - Following the visioning process in the second half of 2014 which resulted in the launch of the new school vision at the end of the year, School Council drafted mission and values statements, circulated these for community feedback, and endorsed them (March).
  - The vision and values will be displayed along the long walls of the school hall in permanent lettering: quotes have been sourced and a parent has kindly agreed to provide designs. A request for P&C part funding has been flagged.
  - To be completed 2016.
- **Code of Conduct:**
  - Following the visioning work, School Council recognised the need to update the Code of Conduct to reflect the school values.
  - Draft circulated for community comment (44 responses).
  - Endorsed (September).
- **Independent Public School (IPS)/staffing flexibility:**
  - School Council withdrew from the IPS Development Process in 2014 in order to focus on developing a shared vision, mission and values with the participation of the school community. Following the completion of this process early this year, School Council is revisiting the question of IPS, but there is no intake for 2016 and no current plans for an intake for 2017.
  - Most features of IPS have now been rolled out to non-IPS schools (eg. one-line budget). What non-IPS schools still don’t have, however, is the flexibility over staffing decisions enjoyed by IPS schools.
- **Chaplaincy:**
  - Following community feedback, the school declined Federal Government funding for a Chaplain in late 2014.
  - This year, State Government funding was provided for 2015 and 2016. Given the community’s feedback in 2014, the school declined the funding for 2015 but left open the option of accessing funding in 2016 if it is possible to employ a non-religious (secular) Chaplain under the State Government program.
  - We are still trying to establish whether this will be possible and what such a program would look like. Once we have the information, we will survey the school community on its views about potentially employing a non-religious youth worker using the State Government funding.
  - If the school community does not support this, School Council will not proceed.

### Other activities

- Chair and Principal attended Eleni Evangel’s forum with the **Minister for Education**, the Honourable
Peter Collier (March).

- Updated **Sponsorship Policy** to reflect changes to the Department of Education’s policy (July).
- Kim Hogan was nominated for a **WA Education Award** (August).
- Approved **Booklists** for 2016 (September).
- Approved **Contributions & Charges** and **Personal Items** lists for 2016 (October).

### Outlook 2016

- Policies to be reviewed/developed:
  - **Homework Policy**
- IPS:
  - Possible application for IPS if community consultation indicates broad support and it becomes possible to apply.