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## St Stephens

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The Moderator, as visitor  
 Chairperson  
 Acting Principal in attendance  
 Secretary  
 Members elected by Synod

Rev Steve Francis  
 Dr Brian Handley  
 Donella Beare  
 Robin Parsons  
 Tim Brewer  
 Michael Charteris  
 Iain Langridge  
 Michael Lynn  
 Jason Ricketts  
 Jenine Owen  
 Kevin Smout

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St Stephen's School is a multi-campus independent co-educational Christian School of the Uniting Church for Kindergarten to Year 12 students. Our campuses are located in Perth's northern suburbs of Duncraig and Carramar. St Stephen's School is committed to growing people who are global citizens dedicated to serving God, others and the world in which we live.

We believe learning should be exciting, inspirational and, above all, relational. At St Stephen's School teaching and learning is relationship centred.

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Learning should be a relational activity that inspires us to explore our place in the world. We believe life has meaning and purpose as reflected in the School's five core values of faith, learning, service, care and community.

The partnership between parents and teachers is so important in setting the relational context in which our children may learn and grow. Learning is a natural, life-long human activity – and life-long learning and growing is valued, encouraged and modelled at St Stephen's School.

### I. ST STEPHEN'S SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2017:

The strategic plan for 2015-17 articulates our School's strategic intent as 'Changing the World One Mind at a Time'. Our School mission, 'Growing People, Growing Faith', enables this strategic intent through the missional strategic initiatives of our teaching and learning.

The St Stephen's School Council is pleased to report on some of the elements of our 2015-2017 strategic plan:

#### I.1 Service Learning

St Stephen's School motto, Serve God, Serve One Another, is reflected in the service learning program of the School. The program offers students from Years 6-12 opportunities to engage in a range of service learning experiences at local, state and international levels.

Students visit such places as Bethany Home Malaysia, Cambodia and South Africa as well as two of our indigenous sister schools in the East Kimberley - Purnululu Aboriginal School and Yiyili Aboriginal School.

During these tours students actively participate in service tasks such as building village homes, repairing and maintaining facilities, completing sustainable agriculture tasks, assisting with therapies for disabled children and participating in structured learning tasks. In every case St Stephen's students are immersed and engaged with the local people and culture.

The service learning program also provides students with opportunities to work in local and regional areas as part of our School's homeroom directed service program. Over the past year this has included UnitingCare West Food Rescue, Red Cross Soup Kitchen, knitting for UnitingCare West Winter Appeal, Easter Egg Appeal for Tranby Day Centre, visits to a range of aged facilities and supporting local residents through gardening and other maintenance projects. One of the exciting developments this year has been the purchase and refurbishment by students of a caravan that will be used as a food kitchen in the local area.

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The service learning program at St Stephen’s has an extraordinary impact on our students and prepares them for life in a way that cannot be replicated in traditional school settings. The intention is to build this program in order to spread the benefits among a wider audience.

**1.2 Church Partnerships**

St Stephen’s School’s partnership with the Uniting Church (WA) remains strong at the highest and formal levels. In the first instance St Stephen’s School provides an office for the minister of Carramar Uniting Church and an auditorium for worship and child care each Sunday. The minister also has an ongoing invitation to attend school worship and devotions.

Over the course of the past year Reverend Dr Sonny Rajamoney and Reverend Nich Cole left Trinity North Uniting Church and as a School we were saddened by this as both Sonny and Nich were welcome members of our School community who actively participated in School worship services.

We were delighted to re-engage with Trinity North when the School met with interim ministers Reverend Brian Thorpe and Reverend Karama Ioapo. The meeting was an opportunity to welcome the ministers to St Stephen’s School and to remind them they were also invited to attend School worship and staff devotions should they wish. Both ministers were happy to continue connections with the School.

St Stephen’s School continues to foster relationships with a number of other congregations and over the course of the year was involved in the annual Carols by Candlelight and Carols in the Park. Reverend Narelle Collas (Carramar Uniting Church) presided over the end of year staff worship service. Senior students continue to visit a range of worship centres as part of their Biblical Studies curriculum and we are hopeful the St Stephen’s Community Farmers Market will be relaunched later this year after a break of a few months.

**1.3 EXTRACO (Extracurricular and Co-curricular)**

Extracurricular and co-curricular activities are very important contributors to the life of the School. Three of the most significant areas of extra and co-curricular activities are those of Performing Arts, Sport and Outdoor Education. Performing Arts was prioritised as a strategic

initiative in the previous triennium and in our current 2015-2017 strategic plan sport and outdoor education are considered areas of focus for the School.

A whole School sports review was completed late 2015 resulting in the creation of a School Sports Implementation Group which has been charged with unpacking the recommendations presented in the review, presenting a ‘St Stephen’s School model’ of sport engagement and participation focusing on ways in which the School can maximise sporting opportunities for students, particularly those students who have been identified as ‘elite’.

The School’s Outdoor Education Program continues to grow with the beginning of development at our Nanga site. By the end of 2016 we will have constructed the initial stages of development - partial road, camp kitchen/shelter and ablution block. The Nanga site provides our students (who are predominantly city-based) with an opportunity to better understand and experience the land and explore concepts of stewardship and the indigenous connection to the land.

The ‘Rite Journey’ camp for Year 9 students across the School is another key part to student learning experiences at St Stephen’s School and the camp will be held at our Nanga site once the initial stages of development are completed later this year. The program develops the skills and resilience for students to meet the challenges in life.

**Moving Forward**

St Stephen’s School is inspired to grow a connected community of innovative, compassionate and Christ-centred people. This has been and always will, be our vision.

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