

**VICTORIA PARK
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

2016

ANNUAL REPORT

The middle section of the cover features a photograph of a pond with several adult ducks and many small ducklings. The pond is situated on a paved area with a brick border. The text is overlaid on this image.





Vision Statement

Children *engaged* in learning;
motivated for success;
transforming their world
through *knowing* God.

Victoria Park Christian School

School Council Report

Chairperson's Report 2016

At the end of 2016 I resigned as Chairperson, as in 2017 our family were going overseas on missionary work, with Mr Trevor Flynn taking on the role.

It was a busy year for VPCS School Council as we focused on the school's *Community Relations and Marketing Plan (CRAMP)* and *Quality Adventists School Framework (QAS)*. This resulted in both staff and council members examining our purpose as a school, our values and what we stood for as a school. From this process, our new Vision Statement was written and now forms the base from which all decisions are made.

The *CRAMP* provided detailed and analysed feedback from members of both our school and wider community, which led us to focus on:

- future growth and development
- making the school name better known in the wider community
- changing the culture of the school and making learning more visible to our stakeholders

Our new website was launched in 2016 along with the school's Facebook page and Skoolbag app, and have all contributed in a positive way to school improvement.

As part of our Quality Improvement Plan (QAS), the four 'big rocks' for 2016 were:

- improving academics
- growth in student numbers
- connecting with the wider community
- professionalism

These four areas were discussed in detail, allowing all members to have a clear picture of the goals of the school and how council can support staff in reaching these goals. Members of council agreed that teachers should utilise their strengths/passions and requested that teachers trial specialist teaching with rotational groups. After a few initial planning refinements in the trial period, teachers provided positive feedback to council and were happy to embed this teaching practice as part of the school's culture.

VPCS underwent their Cyclic Review during this year. The review panel consisted of four members: Adventist Schools Australia – Associate National Director and the Curriculum Officer (Primary); Principal and Chaplain. The report commended the staff's efforts and results in its improvement journey and recommended that a professional article be written on the topic of the Nature Space initiative that is being developed within the school, with a special emphasis on the school's journey so far and the impact of these initiatives on student learning.

Mark Smedley
Chairperson, Victoria Park Christian School



School Overview

Victoria Park Christian School is a Christ centred school community that strives to equip our students with an excellent education through a Christian world view. We want our children to experience God's love through their academic education and social interaction with their peers.

We believe that God's nature provides children with an opportunity to experience school life in a unique and inspiring way and nature is incorporated throughout our school with outdoor classrooms and nature play spaces. Nature spaces provide students with a unique outdoor environment for unstructured play and discovery, nature-based sensory experiences and exploration, which is endlessly re-inventible and sustainable.

Our small school community allows the students and teachers to be closely connected. This is an intentional and important aspect of our student leadership program which focuses on caring and supporting younger children, and fostering relationships between children of all ages. The school also has a structured buddy program that supports the children academically and socially, within and outside the classroom.

Our values program supports children to see love and respect for each other as integral to their interaction with others. Our strong multicultural community is valued and celebrated. Weekly Chapel services are a celebration of what we value and an opportunity for children to share their talents in arts and display their learning to the greater school community.





History

The School was established in 1927 as a single teacher school and was situated in McMillan Street, Victoria Park at this stage. In 1945, the school transferred to Hordern Street just around the corner from its current location. In 1963, new rooms were built on the current site of 27 Colombo Street, to cater for the Primary School while the Hordern Street site housed the High School.

During the 1980s the Junior High School outgrew the Hordern Street premises and was amalgamated with the Senior High School at Carmel.

During 2013, the school extended the Kindergarten class to include Pre-Kindergarten to cater for 3 year olds. At the same time, the Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten classroom operated separately to the Pre-Primary class. The Pre-Primary class moved into and operated from Room 3. The remaining three classrooms operated as multigrade classrooms. In 2014, the school operated as a Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6 school.

In 2015, the school saw its name change from Riverside Community School to Victoria Park Christian School. At this time, the Home and School made the decision to upgrade the sports uniform from its former green to the current blue and grey to match the colours of the school's new logo.





Teaching and Learning

It is really rewarding being able to come to school each day knowing that you have the privilege of working with staff who are dynamic, energetic and driven to be and do the best that they can for the students and their families and for the school.

Commencing 2016, the school welcomed Miss Rebekah Eyre and Mrs Rochelle Stojanovic as they joined the teaching team.

Miss Rebekah Eyre was an Early Childhood trained graduate who took on the role of Pre-Primary. Miss Eyre had previous experience working in the Early Childhood industry, and she has used her experiences and knowledge to make positive contributions to our school community.

Mrs Rochelle Stojanovic returned to the workforce after having maternity leave and brings with her a passion to make learning for all students engaging and fun. Mrs Stojanovic has also contributed to the school through her love of music by starting our school choir. Throughout the year, under the leadership of Mrs Stojanovic, the school choir performed at a number of functions, including the 2016 Hymnfest.

At the end of 2016, students, families and staff said farewell to Mr Lachlan Gooden as he moved back over East to be closer to his family. We are very grateful for the time that Mr Gooden was at VPCS and his love of the outdoors.

AISWA (Association of Independent Schools Western Australia) continued to provide Psychological School Services and Victoria Park Christian School received the services of Toni Tomlin. Toni provided valuable support to both staff and families of children with Inclusive Education needs.

At the end of 2016, all staff were required to complete the Insight SRC Survey. As this was the first survey completed by staff, it will not be able to be compared to former surveys, however will become a valuable tool in monitoring staff and student wellbeing in the future.

Staff Qualifications – 2016

All staff are TRBWA registered. Their qualifications and years of service at Victoria Park Christian School are as follows:

Name	Role	Qualification	Years at Victoria Park	Teaching Experience	TRBWA
Megan Sketchley	Principal	M.Ed Primary B.Ed Primary	4	15	33087280
Roy van Moorsel	Educator Year 5/6	B.Ed Primary	5	8	32055063
Rochelle Stojanovic	Educator Year 3/4	B.Ed Primary	1	9	32037975
Lachlan Gooden	Educator Year 1/2	B.Ed Early Childhood	2.25	2	33082097
Rebekah Eyre	Educator Pre-Primary	B.Ed Primary	1	1	33100274
Gee Gee Yeap	Educator Kindergarten	B.Ed Early Childhood	3.5	3.5	33088845
Jannine Ellis	Educator Librarian (PT)	B.Ed Primary	9	12 FT + PT	32061894
Cherry Lin	Educator Language (PT)	B.Languages	0.5	3	33070060
Simone Field	Educator (PT) Student Support	B.Arts Dip.Ed	1	9	32015856
Sharyn Macri	Education Assistant (PT)	Certificate III	4	N/A	N/A
Francene Whyte	Education Assistant	Certificate III – EA & Children's Services	10	N/A	N/A
Sal Coote	Education Assistant (PT)	Diploma of Education Assistant	7	N/A	N/A
Adam Schulz	Chaplain (PT)		1	NA	N/A
Samantha McCutcheon	Receptionist (PT)		4.5	N/A	N/A

Professional Development – 2016

Victoria Park Christian School values staff development in enhancing student engagement and achievement of outcomes. In 2016, the following Professional Learning opportunities that staff invested in were in alignment with our Quality Improvement Plan:

- Early Career Principal Program – providing principals with a support network to engage in personal reflection and improvement
- Systems Day – this time provided opportunity for staff from all three sectors of our System to reflect and engage in ways that we can work more collaboratively – working smarter not harder
- Distinctive Day – providing new staff with an overview of our beliefs and purpose
- Mandatory Reporting – training for all staff which provided up-to-date information on the different types of abuse, signs of abuse and perpetrators, requirements of staff and how to report abuse

- EALD Training – teachers trained in how to support learners in the classroom where English is their second language
- DIPL Training – (Doorway into Practical Literacy) teaching staff trained in how to implement this program in the classroom
- First Aid Training – for all staff
- On Entry Assessment – training for new teachers using this assessment tool and knowing what to do with the data
- PATHS Training – resilience training for our Chaplain, equipping him with the skills and knowledge to support students when they are experiencing challenging times
- CRICOS – providing updated information for principals in updated legal requirements of overseas students
- Playbuilding Using Drama – skilled our Early Years staff to embed drama more effortlessly, while engaging student interest
- Quality Adventist Schools Framework – preparing school leaders for the Cyclic Review process
- Lighting the Literacy Fire – presented by Jill Eggleton to show schools how they can focus on a consistent, whole-school reading approach
- Beginning Teacher Program – supporting beginning teachers in becoming fully registered
- PRIME Maths – opportunity for teachers to build on their existing knowledge to better deliver the Maths program in more meaningful and engaging ways; how to use the assessment rubric
- Financial Management for School Leaders – support in financial management of the school
- Graduate to Proficient – providing new teachers with skills and knowledge as they work through their registration process
- Digging Deeper with Projects – how to go about setting projects and engaging students in the Early Years
- STEM & Nature Pedagogy – engaging students in design thinking, planning solutions and creating projects
- Planning Journeys of Enquiry in the Early Years – providing staff with a deeper understanding of this process and how to successfully implement enquiry learning



NAPLAN – 2016

The NAPLAN tests were administered in May 2016 and the results were distributed in Term 3 2016.

The number of students taking part in NAPLAN testing at VPCS is very small so the statistical data presented must be considered within this context (especially when being compared with National or larger school cohorts). The school is very pleased with the results and especially the individual efforts of each student. The results do not show the journey that each individual student has been on in order to achieve their personal results.

Victoria Park Christian School works closely with each student and is therefore aware of individual needs through the use of other testing tools and therefore works to address these needs even before NAPLAN.

The following tables show how our school performed in each of the NAPLAN tests and whether they performed *below, at or above* the National Standards for each testing area.

Year 3	Numeracy			Reading			Writing			Spelling			Grammar/Punctuation		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Nation	402	398	402	419	426	426	402	416	421	412	409	420	426	433	436
State	392	388	395	407	413	416	397	408	414	403	400	412	413	424	425
School	415	401	411	432	456	459	409	404	473	421	443	481	445	415	481
2015	Numeracy			Reading			Writing			Spelling			Grammar/Punctuation		
Below	0%			0%			0%			0%			0%		
At	0%			0%			0%			0%			0%		
Above	100%			100%			100%			100%			100%		

Year 3 Participation Rates:

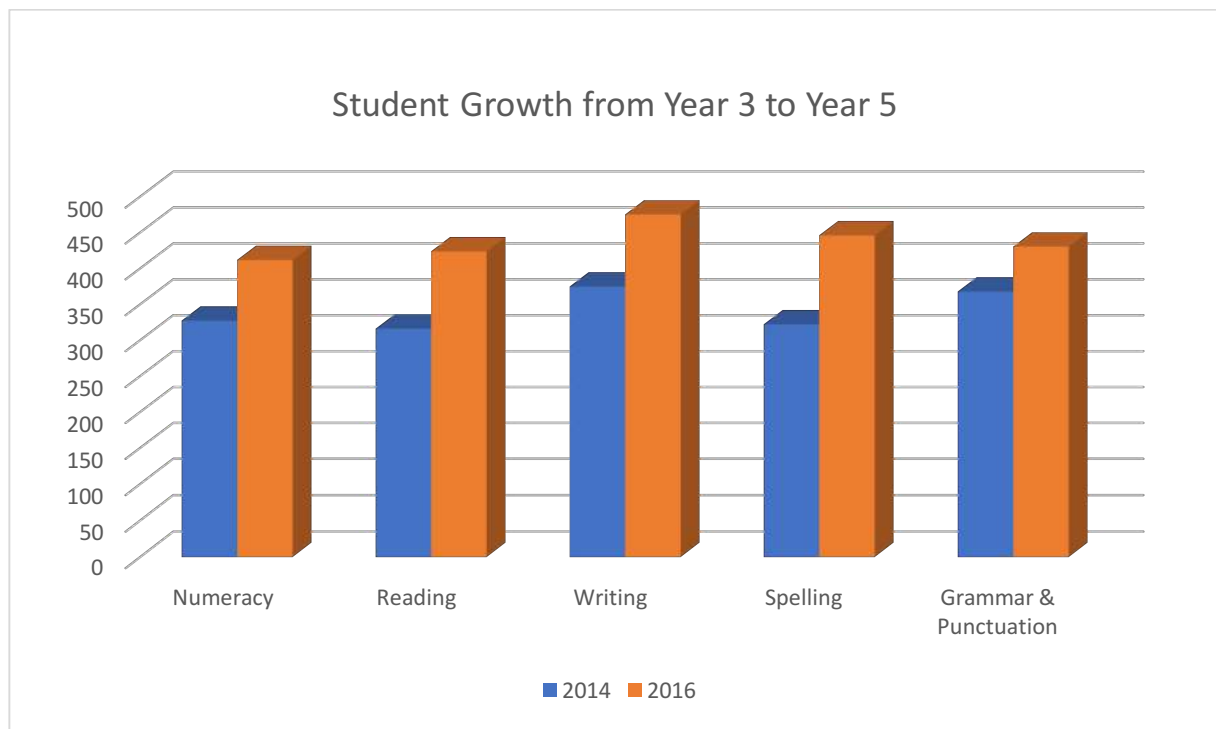
- 1 student absent for Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation

Year 5	Numeracy			Reading			Writing			Spelling			Grammar/Punctuation		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Nation	487	492	493	501	498	502	468	478	475	504	498	493	504	504	505
State	480	485	486	492	489	495	465	471	470	498	493	488	495	496	499
School	465	492	433	473	510	446	455	441	484	492	530	489	495	517	466
2015	Numeracy			Reading			Writing			Spelling			Grammar/Punctuation		
Below	40%			20%			25%			0%			0%		
At	20%			0%			0%			25%			25%		
Above	40%			80%			75%			75%			75%		

Year 5 Participation Rates:

- 1 student absent for Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation
- 1 student absent for all assessment tasks

It is pleasing to see the targeted efforts from teachers to support students in their learning is paying off. This is evident in the individual student gains over the five NAPLAN subject areas, particularly for the Year 5 students. The graph reflects the average growth for all subject areas.





Students

Without our students, our schools do not exist. At Victoria Park Christian School, we are truly blessed with children who are absolutely delightful.

School Enrolments

	Pre-Kindy	Kindy	Pre-Primary	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Total
2010		9	9	9	12	16	13	11	9	3	91
2011		11	11	10	8	12	12	11	11	5	91
2012		18	9	13	9	10	11	12	10	8	100
2013	11	12	18	5	13	13	6	9	6	5	98
2014	16	17	13	18	5	11	10	3	8		101
2015	18	19	13	13	16	5	8	9	3		104
2016	10	13	14	13	12	12	4	5	9		92

These figures are as of August Census Date.

Student Attendance Data in 2016

The average student attendance statistics for 2016 demonstrate that students across compulsory schooling (PP-Year 6) were in attendance 92% of school days in 2016.

Temporary Overseas Students

Victoria Park Christian School was again visited by temporary overseas students in 2016, with 3 coming from Japan and 7 from China.

School Events

2016 proved to be another very busy year as staff implemented different ways of teaching and programs.

DIPL (Doorway into Practical Literacy) was just one of these programs. This program was chosen as it is an Australian program that focuses on phonemic awareness skills as well as phonics; it teaches spelling through integration with other areas of language and literacy; it teaches grammar and punctuation sequentially as well as providing practice in auditory processing skills. Teachers will be monitoring the success of this program through improved student outcomes.

The teaching of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) has been embedded into our weekly practice where students are challenged to use critical and design thinking to solve real world problems.

Teachers are teaching in their area of strength for Specialist Teaching – this occurs every Wednesday where students rotate through three groups of learning: Physical Education; Performance Arts – Music, Drama, Dance and The Arts – Media and Visual Arts.

Students are streamed to support their learning in both Literacy and Numeracy.

Flexible seating has been trialled in some of the classrooms with positive responses from the students.

Midway through 2016, one of our staff members was fortunate to be selected to participate in a study tour of the Reggio Emilia school in Italy in 2017. This is exciting for our school as we continue to challenge ourselves to provide engaging and best practice for our students.

The highlight of the year for our Yr 5/6 students was their trip to Canberra. This was a first time for the school, and to make this event successful we partnered with our sister school in Esperance. Families busied themselves with fundraising activities to support their children in participating in this enriching experience.

Under the guidance of choir instructor, the students presented a very successful performance of Jonah at our annual school concert. All students from Kindy to Year 6 had a part to play. The school is very grateful for the talents of each of its staff members.

Students have been involved in many other extra-curricular activities to support their learning: overnight camping within the school grounds; Sporting Schools gymnastic and tennis programs; choir; piano and violin lessons; Grasshopper Soccer; annual fun run; Week of Worship; Book Week; and participation in awareness events such as Reconciliation Week; Clean-up Australia Day and National Day of Action Against Bullying.

Students from all grades celebrated their learning in Dance with a performance for the school and its community. It was a performance not to be forgotten and parents have requested that an event such as this be held each year.

The school year finished with a fun filled day of cooling down with a water slide.





Community

Another of our QAS focus areas was to improve relations with the school and wider community. The school was fortunate throughout 2016 to have had several opportunities presented that enable connections with the wider community:

- ANZAC Day Dawn Service – all staff and prefects attended the Dawn Service at Memorial Gardens in Victoria Park. The prefects laid a reef in memory of those who sacrificed their lives during war.
- Remembrance Day 2016 – students from Years 1 to 6 attended this event to honour and remember the fallen servicemen and women with a 'Field of Remembrance'. Students planted poppies amongst the many crosses and reflected on the sombre atmosphere that was felt by all who were present. One of our Yr 6 students won the Remembrance Day Poetry Competition with her poem titled 'Remembrance Day Our Story'.
- Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research – students in Years 5/6 were fortunate to be sponsored by Hawaiian and The Park Centre to attend Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research and spend time with research scientists as they were led through a fascinating laboratory experience that highlighted cancer. Students saw first-hand how medical researchers worked towards finding cures for diseases such as cancer.
- Summer Street Party – our school choir was invited to sing at this event, the school also held a sausage sizzle raising funds for our new reading program
- The school has maintained its connection with SonshineFM where the students raised money to support their charity events such as the 98five Heart for Christmas. Students participated in a live cross and also had footage posted on the 98five Facebook page.

Within our local school community, the school held events that celebrated our many cultures, families and promotion of our school and the learning that takes place. Events held included:

- Mothers' Day High Tea
- Multicultural Dinner

- Fathers' Day Breakfast
- Movie and Camp Night under the stars
- Quiz Night
- Working Bees
- Open Day
- Orientation Day
- Christmas Carols

Our Home and School volunteers continue to provide support in fundraising and social activities to support the school in its improvement journey. These mums are greatly appreciated and were acknowledged at our end of year event.





Marketing

VPCS has an intentional focus on having our school name better known within the wider community. As a result, a variety of strategies were employed in 2016 to make this happen:

- Launch of the school's new website
- Facebook page
- Skoolbag app
- Several leaflet drops to 36 local day care centres promoting events such as Open Day which are being held at the school
- A4 and DL promotional flyers printed to complement the school's enrolment package
- Shopping displays at Waterford Plaza
- Participation in the Summer Street Party, Victoria Park – with school choir and sausage sizzle
- New signage for school
- Newswest article published
- Open Day
- Orientation Day
- Early Years Dinner





Pastoral Care and Student Welfare

Pastor Adam Schulz commenced 2016 as our new school Chaplain, working 2.5 days per week.

Pastor Adam spent time in his first few weeks at school getting to know both staff and students in building relationships of trust and respect. He spent time connecting with families and visiting those who requested prayer and support.

Pastor Adam quickly accepted his role of providing extra pastoral care support to students who had been identified as experiencing personal issues or who need support in being resilient in challenging circumstances. He provided these students with strategies that they could use to help them think positively and respond appropriately in all situations. These students developed a close connection with Pastor Adam and were saddened when Pastor Adam was transferred at the end of the year.

Pastor Adam organised the following school events during 2016:

- Funky Hair Day – to raise awareness of others in need and to raise money for the Leukemia Foundation
- Student visitation to the elderly at Rossmoyne Retirement Village
- Fathers' Day Breakfast and Chapel Program
- Clean-up Australia Day
- Week of Worship – Term 1 and 4

Pastor Adam had a very successful year providing support to staff, students and their families. Without this support, life would be very different for many of our students who at times feel they need someone to talk to who is not a parent or teacher.





School Improvement

During 2016, staff at Victoria Park Christian School spent time reviewing five components of the Quality Adventist Schools Framework to determine areas of strength and weakness. Staff chose their area of interest and lead the discussions, taking note of recommendations for school improvements.

Components reviewed in 2016: Special Character; Teaching Rationale; Student Learning and Engagement; Improving Processes and Planning; Finances, Facilities and Resources.

As part of our Quality Improvement Plan and after rigorous conversations, four 'big rocks' were identified as areas of improvement. These 'big rocks' are:

- Improve the academic performance/outcomes of the school
- Grow student numbers
- Improve professionalism
- Improve public relations within the local community

Staff have established several strategies for improvement for each of these 'big rocks' as well as SMART Goals as success indicators.

During 2016, the school used a *School Improvement Survey* as a key tool to provide the school with data from staff, students and parents to assist in understanding how well Victoria Park Christian School is operating as well as identify opportunities for improvement.

The data gathered from this survey ranks Victoria Park Christian School as part of the top 25% of Australian schools in:

- Parent partnerships
- Approachability
- Reporting
- Learning Focus
- Transitions
- Behaviour management

- Stimulating learning
- Teacher morale
- Connectedness to both school and peers
- Student motivation
- Social skills
- Student safety
- Classroom behaviour
- Pastoral Care
- Inclusiveness

This data affirms the work that has been invested in the school in connecting with the school and wider community and the drive to make learning experiences stimulating and engaging for all students.

Opportunities for improvement include:

- Allowing for greater parent input
- Provision of extra-curricular activities
- Homework

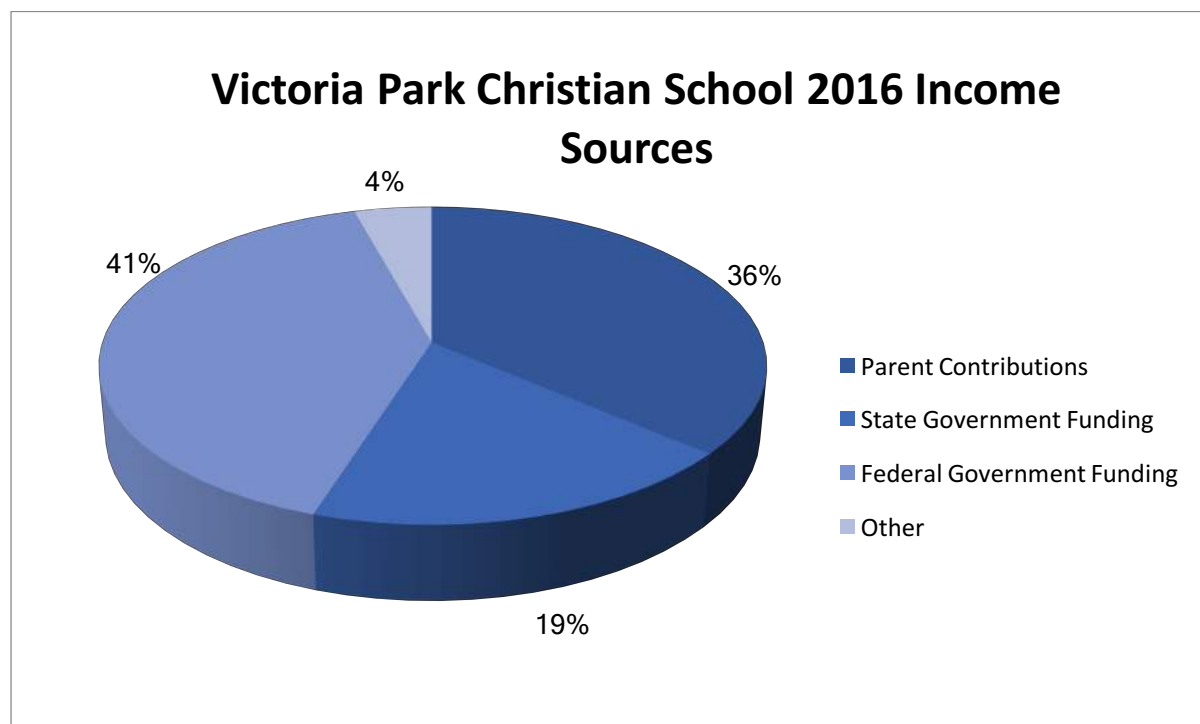
Appropriate plans will be put in place that will enable continuous improvement in these areas.





School Finances

Income for Victoria Park Christian School was received via the following breakdown:



Expenses for Victoria Park Christian School were distributed via the following breakdown:

