Introduction
This policy affirms the school’s duty of pastoral care. At St Albert’s Catholic School Loxton, a Sun Protection policy exists for the safety of the children and staff. This policy operates all year round and for all year levels and staff.

The Policy is based upon evidence that the sun’s ultra-violet rays are damaging to the human body and can cause skin cancers.

Rationale
We believe that students need to be supported to help them choose safe behaviours in the sun. We believe that children will adopt sun-smart practices when:

   o They have accurate information to help them understand the dangers of UV radiation.
   o Significant adults in the community provide good example in regard to their own personal protection.
   o The choice of clothing assists in providing this consistent message.
   o The school provides surroundings consistent with our understanding of protection from UV rays.

Purpose/ Aims
We aim to create an environment where community members understand the damaging effect of ultra-violet rays and are encouraged to make sun-smart choices to protect themselves. We aim to create an environment which positively supports children in making safe choices.

Guidelines
Children must wear their broad brimmed or bucket hats during lessons outside, excursions and recess and lunch breaks during the months of January, February, March, April, May & September, October, November & December.

Students not wearing a hat will be asked to remain in the shade/indoors. Students without hats will not be able to participate in outdoor activities.

In the months of June, July & August, students do not have to wear hats to allow adequate vitamin D exposure.

Students are encouraged to apply 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen to exposed areas during playtimes, with particular emphasis from 1st September – 30th April.
Each classroom has their own supply of 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen parents can supply an alternative sunscreen for their children if required. The school also allows long sleeve polo tops to add further protection from the sun.

To protect children from the heat on days of extreme temperatures, staff will open indoor areas to provide respite from the heat.

The effects of sun damage to our bodies is formally addressed in the Health and Physical Education curriculum. When available, visiting speakers will be invited to help spread the sun-smart message.

Outdoor sporting activities such as Sports Days (including inter school) are to be held during Terms 2 or 3 or a twilight event.

**Vitamin D / Outdoor Sun Exposure**

Children at St Albert’s Catholic School participate in 10 minutes fitness every day to encourage an active and healthy lifestyle. This gives them exposure to the sun / vitamin D on a daily basis.

All children participate in 2 hours of physical education each week. These sessions are always held in the mornings and finished prior to the lunchtime break.

**Supporting Structures**

At St Albert’s Catholic School Loxton, the staff wear sun protective hats and SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen during duty times and outdoor activities for their own protection and also as good modelling for the students. SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen is provided for all the teachers and is available in the staff room.

Our Uniform policy includes broad brimmed and bucket hats (that meet the required standard) as a required part of the school uniform all year round. No hat No play.

To protect children from the heat on days of extreme temperature (35C or over) all children remain indoors in air-conditioned classrooms or under our outdoor shade structure at all times. All sporting activities are cancelled during these periods.

Our **Personal Responsibility Policy** would see the failure to wear a hat as a decision which has a logical consequence. Therefore, sitting in the shade is not seen as a punishment.
Implementation

- All staff members will be given a copy of this policy.
- All Parents/Caregivers or Volunteers who have direct supervision of children will be made aware of this policy.
- All Parents/Caregivers and Community Members will be informed of this policy via the newsletter.
- The St Albert’s Catholic School Loxton Sun Protection policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

Resources

- Sun Smart Schools
- Cancer Council SA
- Personal Responsibility Policy
- Camps & Excursions Policy
- Policy checklist

Signed:

Chairperson School Board: Sean Drake ………………………

Principal: Jason Mittiga ………………………

Date: Feb 2013 Review Date: Feb 2016