

OVERALL

1. What Is Sunday School

Sunday School is one of the Church bodies based on traditions handed over via education for all ages from kindergarten and above.

This body is the responsibility of volunteer men and women of the Coptic Orthodox Church from the age of 18 and above. The most important qualifications of these are their manifest pious conduct and are fully committed believers of the Coptic Orthodox Church and its teaching. They never teach any thing whatsoever outside its traditions especially its traditional method in interpreting the Holy Scriptures.

2. The Sunday School Objectives

- 1 Establish a Christian Orthodox Generation.
- 2 Handing over the of the Church, especially its Sacrament which are the seven pillars of Salvation and without them there is no Salvation.
- 3 . Interpret and expound the Bible (Holy Scripture) according to the tradition of the Holy Church.
- 4 Encourage consecration in the forms of deaconship, priesthood and monastic life
- 5 Translation to English all Church ritual books without compromising the Church hymnology and music.
- 6 Mission based on good conduct and example of all graduates and disciples of Sunday School.(Being an Open Bible)
- 7 Provide musical and cultural alternative to divert the hearts and minds of the ones we serve away from the vanity and corruption of the world
- 8 Publishing all Coptic Orthodox heritage by all available means, especially the electronic media and IT.

3. Sunday School Educational Stages

	Educational Stage	Age Limits
1	Angels	4 to 7 years old
2	Childhood	8 to 10 years old
3	Pre Adolescence	11 to 12 years old
4	Early Adolescence	13 to 15 years old
5	Late Adolescence	16 to 18 years old
6	Youth	19 to 29 years old
7	Grownups	29 and above

The NSW Sunday School Central Committee concentrates its services from the Angels to the youth (Part of stage 6). The bulk of stage 6 and the whole of stage 7 will be looked after by Pope Shenouda III Coptic Orthodox Theological College.

4. Serving the Educational Stages

- 4.1. It is preferred that each educational stage is treated as a separate family, with a family coordinator. If full steaming is impractical stages 1&2 above may be combined, similarly stages 3&4 and 5&6. However, for example, it is not proper to establish a mix of 16 years old with 19 years old within the same class.
 - 4.1.1.A "Family Coordinator" of an Educational Stage must be well reputed and nominated by his father confession, the parish priest and the Parochial Superintendent. His selection is carried out by the Parochial Superintendent with full consultation with both the father confession and the parish priest. The position of a family coordinator should be given to competent persons and not to be handed on bases of nepotism or as means of gratification to unsuitable people.
 - 4.1.2.The Parochial Superintendent must have 10 years experience as a Sunday School Servant. Five years of his experience must be spent as a family coordinator, three years of his experience as a family coordinator must be in Australia.
 - 4.1.3.The selection of a Parochial Superintendent must be in full agreement between the Parish Priest, Confesion Father and the Sunday School Central Committee NSW.
 - 4.1.4.The General Superintendent must be 10 years or more as a Parochial Superintendent. His appointment must be carried out through the Pope¹. The Central Committee may recommend such person to His Holiness.

RESPONSIBILITES

- 4.2. Responsibilities of A Family Coordinator
 - 4.2.1.Ensure that all Sunday School Servants (teachers) in his family are equipped with a syllabus for their respected classes.
 - 4.2.2.That Such syllabus is in harmony with the Central Committee.
 - 4.2.3.That he knows each of the Servants in his family by name and must visit them at their homes, at least twice each year.
 - 4.2.4.Supervise and revise servants' preparations and their preparations books.
 - 4.2.5.Visit absent pupils/students. Such visit must take place if after 3 visitations the servant of this absent person fails to return him to attending Sunday School.
 - 4.2.6.Continually revise the attendance register and update this register every year in December.
 - 4.2.7.Provide and renew audiovisuals.
 - 4.2.8.Ensure that all classes are provided with winter and summer excursions and outing, as well as retreats and camps.
- 4.3. 4.3 Responsibilities of the Parochial Superintendent
 - 4.3.1.Provide all families with syllabuses ensuring that they are in harmony with the Central Committee.
 - 4.3.2.To know all Family coordinators by name and to visit them at least twice yearly.
 - 4.3.3.To revise and correct, if necessary, the general direction of the parish Sunday School. He must hold 2 servants conferences each year.
 - 4.3.4.Visit absent pupils/students, if the family coordinator fails in returning them after 3 visits.
 - 4.3.5.Provide and continually update the class and servants roll for the whole parish. Renewal must take effect in January of each year.
 - 4.3.6.Provide Audiovisual means, and exchange them with other parishes.
 - 4.3.7.Organise timetable of all services. Such organisation must happen in conjunction with the Parish Priest. Also must organise regular monthly confession times for all classes

¹ With the appointment of a Bishop, It is suggested that His Grace Abba Daniel Bishop of Sydney and Affiliated Regions takes over this duty.

- 4.3.8. Coordinate and direct the translation of translating Coptic heritage to English language, and to ensure that Coptic chants are handed over to all Sunday School in both Coptic and English Languages.
 - 4.3.9. Organise a Sunday School musical and/or theatrical function to celebrate the Resurrection (Easter), the Nativity (Christmas) and the Nayrouz (Coptic New Year).
 - 4.3.10. Organise parochial competitions and subscribing to all competitions sponsored by the Central Committee.
 - 4.3.11. Supervision of the Parish choir and ensure that all lyrics and music are correct and according to Coptic Church tradition. Must encourage Coptic Language and English Language traditional chants. He must ensure that two-thirds of the choir production is chanted according to the Coptic tunes.
- 4.4. Responsibilities of the General Superintendent
- 4.4.1. Visit all Parochial Superintendents at least twice yearly. In special circumstances he may visit any Servant or a Family Coordinator
 - 4.4.2. To be the liaison officer between Central Committee and the Priests Council, the General Board, Board of Deacons and the various Committees
 - 4.4.3. To be the liaison officer between the Central Committee with the Mother Church.
 - 4.4.4. Organise regular meetings for the Central Committee and determine the Agenda.
 - 4.4.5. To supervise and assist publishing by its all forms.
 - 4.4.6. Liaise with COYA.
 - 4.4.7. Establish a general register of all Sunday School based on Parochial registers.
 - 4.4.8. To act the liaison officer with all community, corporate and/or governmental bodies in matters pertaining to the Sunday School.

RELATIONSHIPS

5. Relationship Between Sunday School and other Church Bodies

The Coptic Orthodox Sunday School is an inseparable part of the Coptic Orthodox Church. This relationship is unaltered under any circumstance. Servants, coordinators and Superintendents must obey and conform to all decisions of the Church hierarchy. They must commit themselves to such decisions both objectively and subjectively.

5.1. Relationship With Parochial Board of Deacons

- 5.1.1. The Sunday School Superintendent is an active member of the Parochial Board of Deacons.
- 5.1.2. The Superintendent should vote in all matters, however he must not engage or vote in any matters, which are likely to cause a division or conflict.
- 5.1.3. If the Parochial Board tarries or stops financial supplies to Sunday School, the Parochial Superintendent must raise the matter to the Central Committee. It is prohibited to discuss such matters with parish members.

5.2. Relationship with the Church Chanting Choirs.

The Parochial Superintendent is responsible to deepen the relationship with the chief choir leader of his parish, especially in matters of translation, preserving the heritage and the Sunday School choir.

5.3. Publishing Bodies.

Sunday School adopts and supports all publishing bodies in order to assist in preservation, publishing and translation of the entire heritage.

5.4. The Theological College of Pope Shenouda III

The Central Committee cooperates with the Coptic Theological College of Pope Shenouda III, especially in matters of Servant Preparation, references and any other educational matters.

5.5. Mission

The Coptic Orthodox is responsible to produce generations of pious generations, capable of attracting people to Christ through good example.

5.6. Heritage

The Coptic Orthodox Sunday School is responsible to preserve, propagate and keep alive all Coptic Orthodox Tradition without any adulteration, i.e additions, omissions or alteration/s.

SALVATION

6. Means of Salvation

- 6.1. The Coptic Orthodox Sunday School believes that there is no Salvation outside the Church.
- 6.2. Presenting Christ necessitates the Church.
- 6.3. Christ may not be presented without the Church, its Sacraments, Traditions and hierarchy.