



ORTHODOX SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF THE EAST

UK, EUROPE & AFRICA (OSSAE-UEA)

DIOCESE OF UK, EUROPE & AFRICA

TALENT EVENT GUIDELINES

Circular No: 01/2023

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Version History

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Preface

Dear brothers and sisters,

We thank our Merciful God for nurturing our talents over the last few years, and we earnestly think the talent events from 2013 were blessed experiences.

OSSAE-UK aims to recognize beloved children through organizing Talent Events in Co- curricular / Arts & Sports category at Unit, Zonal and Diocese levels. It would offer wider opportunities to our Sunday school children for further nurturing their talents. This would also hope to create more fellowship, sense of oneness and belonging and cater healthy relationship amongst children, teachers and parents.

We once again aim to promote talents of our children in 2023 for the common good and hope that this opportunity would not give way for unhealthy arguments or disputes. However, if any grievances or disputes arise, it is recommended to discuss with the Head Teacher and Vicar to assure transparency in all the proceedings and assessment and allow us to continuous improvement as we progress through years.

It would be expected of all the supervisors, participants and supporters that they would take care and attention in keeping the harmony among everyone. The event is not meant to cater unhealthy behavior or expressions which would destroy the goal. We need to keep the relationship as the beloved children of God and the determination for unity and fellowship would help everyone to keep themselves bound to the Church , Sunday School, Teachers, Friends and Parents in perfect love. We may be reminded all the time that every participant, by dedicating their talents, wins over idleness and complacency and becomes tool for the Glory of God. We emphasize the point that participation is more important than winning!

Hope the talent meets would bring us closer to God and may we together, in Divine Love, praise and glorify His Holy Name forever!!! Please refer to the Appendix II for topics/syllabus for event for different age group. Good luck to all participants!

Rev. Fr. Anoop Malayil Abraham

Vice President, OSSAE-UK

Simon Chacko

Director, OSSAE-UK

RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. **Age groups** (Age calculated as on 1st January 2023)

Group	Birthday Range [Including these dates]	Remarks
Infants	01-Jan-2018 – 31-Dec-2018	<i>Regular students only</i>
Sub juniors	01-Jan-2015 - 31-Dec-2017	<i>Regular students only</i>
Juniors	01-Jan-2012 – 31-Dec-2014	<i>Regular students only</i>
Intermediate	01-Jan-2009 – 31-Dec-2011	<i>Regular students only</i>
Seniors	01-Jan-2004 – 31-Dec-2008	<i>Regular students only</i>

Infant Category

As agreed in 2017 Teachers Conference, Sub Juniors age category is now split into two: Infants and Sub-juniors. Age 4 students will be grouped under Infant category and can only participate in unit level events. Age 5 to 7 students will come under Sub junior category and can participate in further levels of event. Elocution topics and group song choices will be common for both categories.

Note: Head teachers to carefully place students in their respective age groups based on their age and this should be strictly adhered.

2. **Common Rules**

Δ Marks will be reduced if exceed or not achieved the allotted time (0.50 marks for every 30 seconds)

Δ written manuscripts, electronic, visual aids/devices of any kind will not be permitted.

Δ Prompting (action, guidance) will not be permitted.

Δ Audio or video recording of any kind will not be permitted

EVENTS

a. **Solo song**

Song: Christian devotional songs

Language: English/ Malayalam

Time: 2 - 3 minutes (No warning bell will be given in the event of exceeding the allotted time limit) **Marks:** 30 (tune: 10, rhythm: 10, voice: 10)

Note:

→ Same song could be sung in different languages or tone. However, different songs should not be mixed.

→ Avoid pop music albums for Solo Song events: Only Christian devotional songs are allowed.

b. Group Song

With a view to encourage smaller children to learn the basic hymns before going to a wider range, we have tried to restrict the selection of hymns for each category as follows:

Group	Hymns
Infants & Sub juniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any hymn from MOC Holy Qurbanakramam 2015 and newer editions
Juniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any hymn from MOC Holy Qurbanakramam 2015 and newer editions• Holy Baptism• Eldo• Funeral Service of Men
Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any hymn from MOC Holy Qurbanakramam 2015 and newer editions• Perunnal Sushrushakramam (Aandu Taksa)• Funeral of Women
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any hymn from MOC Holy Qurbanakramam 2015 and newer editions• Passions week songs (Passions Monday to Holy Saturday)• Shema Namaskaram• Funeral service of priests

Language: English/ Malayalam/ Syriac

Time: 2.00 - 3 minutes (No warning bell will be given in the event of exceeding the allotted time limit)

Marks: 30 (tune: 10, rhythm: 10, harmony: 10)

No. of participants: 3-5 (exceptional circumstances 2 but never no more than 5)

Note

→ One member from the group should announce the reference of the song prior to singing.

→ Same song could be sung in different languages or tone. However, different songs should not be mixed.

→ Exceptional Circumstances: When a particular Sunday school have only 2 children to participate for group song in an age group [Sub-juniors/Juniors/Intermediate/Seniors]. Further, this should be strictly certified and communicated via written means to the Sunday School Vice President and Director by the concerned Vicar and Head Teacher.

→ Selection of hymns for Group Song: All Sunday school units must select hymns for Group Song only after consulting their Vicar. If the validity of a hymn needs further clarity, please contact Sunday School Vice President and Director via written means by the concerned Vicar and Head Teacher.

c. Elocution

Topic: As per guidelines/syllabus.

Time: 3-5 minutes (No warning bell will be given in the event of exceeding the allotted time)

Marks: 30 (subject /content) - 10, presentation (ability to convey message) - 10, language - 10 (content, language and communication skill)

Note:

1. One of the two elocution topics will be chosen randomly before the start of the event.
2. Sub juniors will have only one subject.

d. ESSAY WRITING

OSSAE UK Talent Event 2023 team has decided to initiate Essay writing for **intermediate and senior category**. This will be conducted for both categories on the same day at Unit level only. Head teachers should ensure essay writing is conducted on a date which suits the unit's convenience, but it should be conducted in consultation with vicar and teacher's council, and by ensuring the presence of Vicar or a Priest authorized by the vicar at the venue of the event. Paper will be provided by church and mobile and electronic devices won't be allowed.

Intermediate

Topic: 1Peter 3:9 "Not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead"

Marking criteria- Content should include:

- Personal, Family and Church experiences
- Produce positive suggestions for spiritual growth.
- 500-750 words
- Time: 30 minutes

Seniors

Topic: 1Corth 2:5 "Your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God"

Marking Criteria- Content should include:

- Background
- Spiritual message
- Use this message in the day to day life
- Critical Analysis
- 750 -1000 words
- Time: 30 minutes

Quiz Competition Guideline

Quiz competition is aimed at improving Sunday school children's knowledge on biblical, church history, faith and traditional aspects. We aim to conduct quiz competitions at unit level based on the guidelines given below with a view to promote children's general knowledge anchored on Sunday school education. **1st and 2nd place winners from intermediates and seniors only, will participate at Zonal & Diocese level.**

Individual Guidelines:

1. Quiz competition can be held for intermediates and seniors at unit level.
2. Intermediates and Seniors are to participate in **Zonal Level Quiz Competition which will be held on 24th June 2023**, across all the zones, in their respective categories. **Please note at Zonal & Diocese level, 1st and 2nd place winners from unit level will be joining as one team not individuals. Ultimately, they will represent their parishes in their respective categories (i.e., intermediates and seniors).**
3. Head teachers should ensure to send the names of first and second prize winners of intermediate and senior age groups from unit level competition to the respective zonal coordinators by **30th April 2023**.
4. Quiz competition topics are as below:-

INTERMEDIATES TOPICS

- Kukilion - 25 %
- St Matthew – 25%
- Holy Confession- 25%
- Church history & Tradition – (Restrict to Malankara history from Synod of Diamper till now) 25%

SENIORS TOPICS

- Acts of Apostles 25 %
- Holy Matrimony- 25%
- Good Friday Service - 25%
- Church history & Tradition (Restrict to Malankara history from Synod of Diamper till now) 25%

5. Zonal level winners will be contesting at the Diocese level

- The decision of the quizmaster will be final and will not be subjected to any change.
- The participants shall not be allowed to use any books, manuscripts, mobile phones or other electronic instruments.

Talent Event/Competition level Qualifiers and Venue

Sunday school units should conduct talent event on a Saturday / Sunday in February or March in accordance to the unit's convenience. It should be conducted in consultation with vicar and teacher's council, by ensuring the presence of Vicar or a Priest authorized, by the vicar at the venue of the competition. Sunday school units to conduct unit level competition/ event well in advance to enable those children who are qualified to prepare for Zonal and Diocese level Competition/Event.

Zonal Level:

Head teachers should send a list of qualified **1st & 2nd price winner of Solo, Elocution & Group song for all categories (sub-juniors, juniors, intermediates and seniors)**, using the attached form (appendix 1) via email to their respective SS zonal coordinators on or before midnight of **30th April 2023**.

Please note only 1st and 2nd place winners from Intermediate and Senior category for Quiz Competition, respectively will go onto participate at zonal level. 1st and 2nd place winners from Intermediate and Senior category only from unit level, respectively will represent their church and participate in Zonal level.

Ireland, North, Central, and South (UK mainland) zonal coordinators are responsible to conduct zonal level competitions on or before **24^h June 2023** at venues already identified. The zonal coordinators have the responsibility to inform his/her Sunday school units within the zonal regarding the addresses of the venue. Zonal coordinator should conduct the competitions in consultation with the vicars and head teachers of the respective venues and may seek advice from the Diocesan Talent Competition Coordinator as required.

Please note that **no results or amendments will be accepted after the declared deadline.**

Venues:

North: Liverpool Central: Birmingham South: Canterbury Ireland: Dublin

Diocesan Levels

Zonal coordinators should send a list of qualified **first and second price winner of Solo, Elocution & Group song for all categories (sub-juniors, juniors, intermediates and seniors)**, using the attached form (appendix 1) via email to Talent Event coordinators, **Sunday school Secretary and Sunday school Director** on or before midnight of **1st July 2023**.

1st and 2nd place winners from Intermediate and Senior category only from Zonal level, respectively will represent their church and participate in Diocesan level.

Please note only 1st & 2nd prize winners (intermediates and seniors category only), from Zonal level will qualify for Diocesan level Quiz Competition on 23rd September 2023, this will be held between 09:00-17:30 hours

Venue: Crawley

General Rules & Guidelines

1. The unit, zonal and diocese level Events should be conducted impartially, and organizers must adhere to the Event rules and guidelines given in this Circular for the centralized events.
2. **Unit** level events should be organized and supervised by the Head Teacher only in consultation with teacher's council headed by the parish Vicar. In case of any inconvenience only his/her deputy or a senior teacher of the respective Sunday school should be authorized to conduct the event. Event should be conducted well in advance to help participants to prepare for the next higher level of event. Judges for the event should be selected as per guidelines provided. Head Teachers should notify the event details to their respective Sunday school zonal coordinator.
3. **Zonal**- Zonal Coordinators will be responsible for organizing the event in their respective zonal. Judges for the event should be selected as per guidelines provided. First and second prize winners from school/unit level should qualify for the zonal level event. Events should be conducted well in advance to help participants to prepare for the next higher level. After the zonal level event, details of first and second prize winners of each category should be notified to the Talent Event Coordinator, Sunday school Secretary and Sunday school Director.
4. **Diocese**—(UK Region) level event should be organized by the Talent Event Coordinator, while Sunday school Director holds the overall responsibility and supervision of the event, and he should act for the vice president and Diocesan Metropolitan. Judges for this level of event should be selected by the Vice President in consultation with Diocesan Metropolitan.
5. Taking picture and publishing children's participating the events without authorization is not acceptable. Flash photography is strictly restricted at all the times. Parents who wish to take picture or video of their children in the events are strictly advised to adhere to direction of the event organizer.
6. Only regular students are eligible to participate in talent events. Those students who do not have regular attendance, discontinued or disqualified students and private students (matured students who do not fall in the age category) are not eligible to participate in any levels of talent events.
7. All communications from OSSAE-UK Office will be made to the head teacher only.
8. The rules for the event, topics for the elocution, group song choices and number of participants will be as per this circular (Please refer to Appendix II). It will be the participant's responsibility to learn to

manage time. Warning bells may be avoided to minimize distraction. As an alternative, stop watch on a projected screen may be used.

9. Sunday school units may continue to organize suitable Co-Curricular activities which include arts & sports and other events, such as Bible quiz, Bible reading, essay, and story writing, drawing and coloring for promoting various talents of our students.
10. The decision of the judges would be final at all level of events and any complaints arising from the event should be directed to the head teacher of the respective Sunday school.
11. If two persons win the first prize and only one person comes second, the winner of second prize is not qualified to participate in next higher level event. If more than one person win second prize, one person should be selected through a lot from second prize winners to qualify for the next higher level of event along with the first prize winner.
12. The head teachers, zonal Inspector /coordinators should preserve the details of the events (score sheet, participant list etc.) for a year, and the Diocesan Talent coordinator should keep full details of diocesan event in safe custody for at least a period of one year.

13. Event Judgement and Panel of Judges

13.1 **Unit Level** event: All the judges should not be from the respective parishes. Panel of three judges must at least include one from outside the parish. Event should be conducted in the presence of parish Vicar who can be one of the judges. Under special circumstances of a parish/unit, judge/s may be selected from the same parish preferably among someone whose children are not directly involved in Sunday school activities of that parish. In such circumstances, Head teachers should notify their Zonal Coordinators of the same. Under such circumstances, one member of the panel of judges should be one of our Priests. The Vicar, who is the chairman/president of the Sunday school unit, will be the final authority with regards the unit level event judgement and announcement of the winners on the same day of event. Head Teachers should notify the details of event after the event to their respective Zonal Inspectors/coordinators within the deadline.

13.2 **Zonal level** event: Panel of three Judges for the Zonal event should be preferably from outside the zonal. However, under special circumstances, if it is not viable, Zonal coordinators should consult the Sunday school Director for advice. Under any circumstances, one member of the panel of judges should be one of our church's Priests.


13.3 **Diocese level** event: Judges should be selected by the Vice president of the OSSAE-UK in consultation with diocesan Metropolitan. The Vice President shall notify the selected panel of judges to the Sunday school director and provide clear guidelines for panel of judges. OSSAE-UK Vice president will be responsible for supervising the proceedings of the event judgment.

13.4 Judges are advised to use decimal numbers at all three levels of event to reduce risk of equal scoring by two or more participants. Judges should also sign wherever corrections are made in the mark/score sheet.

13.5. The participation sequence will be decided by drawing lots. Participants may be asked to pick a lot which could decide the sequence. This method is highly recommended to decide the sequence of elocution event.

13.6 Zonal Inspectors and Diocesan officials to carefully choose the tabulation team and judges. They should be given a quick summary/advice about the rules and regulation before all events and remind to keep the confidentiality

OSSAE-UEA Talent Event Guideline Chart 2023

	<u>OSSAE-UEA Talent Event Guideline Chart 2023</u>				
Event	Infants (01-01-18 – 31-12-18) & Sub-Juniors (01-01-15 – 31-12-17)	Juniors (01-01-2012 – 31-12-2014)	Intermediate (01-01-2009 – 31-12-2011)	Seniors (01-01-2004 – 31-12-2008) (Regular Students only)	Specific Instructions
Solo Song	Any suitable Christian song excluding pop music.				A song in Malayalam/English languages only.
Group Song	→Any hymn from MOC Holy Qurbanakramam 2015 and newer editions	→Any hymn from MOC Holy Qurbanakramam 2015 and newer editions →Holy Baptism →Eldo →Funeral Service of Men	→Any hymn from MOC Holy Qurbanakramam 2015 and newer editions →Perunnal Sushrushakramam (Aandu Taksa) → Funeral of Women	→Any hymn from MOC Holy Qurbanakramam 2015 and newer editions →Passions week songs (Passions Monday to Holy Saturday) →Shema Namaskaram → Funeral service of priests	→A hymn from the specified service in Malayalam/English/ Syriac languages only.
Elocution Topics	Any parable from Holy Gospels	Importance of prayer in Orthodox Life.	Nicene Creed- Core of Orthodox Faith My grace is sufficient for you, 2 Corinthians 12:9	Why is St Paul called the apostle of the Gentiles? “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him” St John 6:56	In Malayalam or English only Use of any kind of written information, use of manuscripts or any supporting devices are not permitted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Elocution topic will be randomly selected from the two topics prior to the actual event. ➤ First and second prize winners of each category from unit level events will qualify for zonal level event. ➤ Deadline to notify participant list for Zonal level event: by the midnight of 30th April 2023 ➤ Deadline to notify participant list for Diocesan level event: by the midnight of 1st July 2023. ➤ First and second prize winners from Zonal level to qualify for Diocesan event on 30th September 2023 at Crawley. 					

Appendix I Appeal Procedure

The Appeal Committee consists of the following people:

- a. The Vice President
- b. Director
- c. Secretary
- d. Talent Event Coordinator and
- e. Talent Event Assistant Coordinator (if required)

General guidelines

1. In case of any concern regarding the Talent Events, the participant or their parents could raise an appeal in a written format duly signed. This should be forwarded by the respective Head Teacher's **only** after the approval by their parish Vicar.
2. The written appeal should be scanned and emailed to the OSSAE-UK Director and Secretary within 5 days after the event. Appeals after this time period will not be considered under any circumstances.
3. A decision will be made on the appeals within two weeks and the same will be communicated by the Director to the concerned Head Teacher.
4. The scores given by the judges are final and will always be taken into consideration while handling an appeal.
5. Disqualification appeals will be dealt based on the OSSAE UK Talent Event guidelines issued every year.
6. The decisions taken by the appeal committee will be final and there'll be no clause for further appeals.
7. The appeal committee can request respective zonal coordinators for the Zonal Level score sheets in the event of a score verification and they must provide the score sheets in time.

Appendix II
List of Eligible Participants

Name of the Sunday school Unit.....

Zonal: Completion date.....

Event	Category	Prize	Full Name/s		Date of Birth [dd/mm/yyyy]	
Solo Song	Sub Juniors	I				
		II				
	Juniors	I				
		II				
	Intermediates	I				
		II				
	Seniors	I				
		II				
	Elocution	Sub Juniors	I			
			II			
		Juniors	I			
			II			
Intermediates		I				
		II				
Seniors		I				
		II				
Group Song		Sub Juniors	I	1)		
				2)		
	3)					
	4)					
	5)					
	II		1)			
			2)			
			3)			
			4)			
			5)			

Event	Category	Prize	Full Name/s		Date of Birth [dd/mm/yyyy]
Group Song	Juniors	I	1)		
			2)		
			3)		
			4)		
			5)		
		II	1)		
			2)		
			3)		
			4)		
			5)		
	Intermediates	I	1)		
			2)		
			3)		
			4)		
			5)		
		II	1)		
			2)		
			3)		
			4)		
			5)		
	Seniors	I	1)		
			2)		
			3)		
			4)		
			5)		
		II	1)		
			2)		
			3)		
			4)		
			5)		

Name /Sign of the Vicar

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Name & Sign of the Head Teacher

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