

of the Jesuit Order. The supreme responsibility for supervision of schools belonged to the Provincial, or – within the college – to the Rector. However, neither of them participated directly at teaching activities or their management. The main practical responsibility for the process and quality of instruction was in hands of School Prefects, whose count varied according to the type of schools. A School Prefect supervised instruction through regular meetings with individual teachers, checking on pupils' results records kept by teachers, examining pupils' notebooks and chairing examination commissions, which were supposed to test pupils in order to let them advance to the next grade.

The Jesuits gave a lead in education for the other catholic monastic orders, including Dominicans, Franciscans, Piarists and Christian Brothers. Piarists were especially popular as they taught rather at elementary, than at secondary schools.

The Thirty Years' War brought great decimation of town and particular schools. The rest of schools were submitted to the Church supervision. The quality of these schools was poor because they were managed by unqualified individuals, sextons, craftsmen or even war veterans, instead of bachelors appointed hitherto by the Prague University.

On 6<sup>th</sup> December 1774, The General School Codex for German Normal, General and Trivial Schools in all the Imperial and Royal Hereditary Lands (Allgemeine Schulordnung für die deutschen Normal-Haupt- und Trivialschulen in sämtlichen k. k. Erbländern) came into effect, defining the structure of elementary schools of three types. Besides trivial schools, general and normal schools operated as well.

Trivial schools were supervised by a local clergyman – a parish priest. If a school had a principal appointed, the school principal could also carry out the direct supervision. Economic issues were controlled by secular school supervisors, who were mostly wealthy farmers or manorial officers appointed by the municipality in accordance with nobility. A supervisor had to check whether teacher's salary had not been reduced, whether there was enough wood for the school building heating, whether the classroom and the school building residential part is equipped adequately, whether the school had been provided with textbooks and whether the teacher was qualified, capable and diligent. The supervisor should also oversee that the course of the instruction is peaceful and that pupils are treated kindly. The most important task was the school attendance check, because school attendance was not observed too well in the first decades after the General School Codex introduction. A supervisor also participated at vicarial visitations. Both supervisors, a clergyman as well as a secular supervisor, could exercise their control arbitrarily and at their deliberation.

Generally, a District School Supervisor used to be a dean or a vicar nominated by the Diocese. His nomination had to be confirmed by the Gubernium and he was appointed for particular number of schools, travelling around the whole district and obliged to visit every school including general schools at least once a year. District school supervisors had many duties including textbooks provision for pupils, remuneration and education of teachers or regular provision of religious education for pupils.