

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 16TH OCTOBER 2017

SUBJECT: HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2018

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Caerphilly SACRE of Holocaust Memorial Day 2018.

B BACKGROUND

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is an annual event that takes place on 27th January and was established in the UK in 2000. The first HMD was held in January 2001. 27th January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp by Soviet troops in 1945.

Holocaust Memorial Day seeks to change the future by learning from and remembering the past. Schools are encouraged to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day in order to remember the victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides. It provides a framework to explore issues of morality, human reactions, individual experiences, responsibilities and larger questions of the role of governments and democracies. The government, including the Welsh Government, encourages schools and LAs to commemorate this event in some way.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. The HMD theme for 2018 is '**The Power of Words**'. Spoken and written words from individuals, corporations, community organisations or the state can have a huge impact, whether good or bad. The theme for HMD 2018 explores how language has been used in the past, and how it is used in the present day.

Words can make a difference – both for good and evil.

'I want to go on living even after my death! And that's why I am so grateful to God for having given me this gift, which I can use to develop myself and to express all that's in me. When I write I can shake off all my cares; my sorrow disappears; my spirits are revived.' - **Anne Frank, written in her diary, 5 April 1944**

HMD activities could focus on the impact that words had in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, through propaganda used to incite, through slogans written in resistance, and through memoirs written to record and respond to what was going on. The words that we see and hear all around us today – in newspapers, online, in conversations – the words that we choose to use, all have an impact upon us and those around us.

Further information about the theme and free educational resources containing material suitable for primary to post 16 students is available online at <http://education.hmd.org.uk>

C RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority circulate to schools the information on Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 and reference the website for appropriate resources (www.hmd.org.uk).