



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 25TH SEPTEMBER 2008

SUBJECT: HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2009

REPORT BY: ESIS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report is to inform members of Holocaust Memorial Day.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is an annual event that takes place on 27th January. HMD was established in the UK in 2000 and the first HMD was held in January 2001.

2.2 27th January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp by soviet troops in 1945.

2.3 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 WAG, encourages schools and LEAs to commemorate this event in some way.

2.4 The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for 2009 is "**Stand Up to Hatred**". It urges all people to look at their behaviour to others; to understand how hatred is directed against different minorities in Britain today; to explore how each person can help make our communities stronger and safer. Free educational resources are available. The pack contains lesson plans, collective worship/assemblies and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

3. LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ PROJECT (SEE FLYER)

3.1 The following schools were involved in the visit to Auschwitz:

- Bedwas High School
- Rhymney Comprehensive
- Lewis Girls Comprehensive
- St Cenydd Comprehensive
- Heolddu Comprehensive
- Ystrad Mynach College

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Members of the SACRE are requested to approve the following actions:

- (i) to write to schools reminding them of HMD and ask them to commemorate it in some way;
- (ii) to circulate to schools the Holocaust Memorial Day Pack; and
- (iii) to encourage schools to take up the opportunity to take part in the Lessons from Auschwitz project.

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