



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 10TH DECEMBER 2008

SUBJECT: HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2009 - UPDATE

REPORT BY: ESIS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report is to inform members of holocaust issues.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Holocaust Memorial Day 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.

2.4 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.

2.5 The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for 2008 is **Stand up to Hatred**.

2.6 Free educational resources are now available. The pack contains lesson plans, collective worship/assemblies and worksheets suitable for primary to post 16 students.

2.7 Schools that took part in the Lessons from Auschwitz programme in 2008.

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

3. UPDATE

3.1 Schools have been informed of the availability of HMD packs of resources. Secondary schools have been sent these packs.

- 3.2 Schools were sent a letter reminding them of HMD and asking them to commemorate it in some way.
- 3.3 WASACRE included a question on Holocaust Education in their meeting with the Minister in November.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Members are requested to note the recent action taken.

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