



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 24TH FEBRUARY 2009

SUBJECT: VISIT TO AUSCHWITZ - PRESENTATIONS

REPORT BY: ESIS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report is to inform members of holocaust issues.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Holocaust education provides a framework to explore issues of morality, human reactions, individual experiences, responsibilities and larger questions of the role of governments and democracies.
- 2.2 Holocaust Memorial Day is an annual event that takes place on 27th January. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD).
- 2.3 The Holocaust Education Trust has a 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme where sixth form pupils have the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and see first hand the remnants of what remains of that camp and the horrors inflicted there.
- 2.4 Schools that took part in the Lessons from Auschwitz programme in 2008 in Caerphilly Local Authority were:
- Bedwas High
 - Rhymney Comprehensive
 - Lewis Girls
 - St Cenydd Comprehensive
 - Heolddu
 - Ystrad Mynach College
- 2.5 Newbridge School has taken pupils from KS4 on visits to Auschwitz and they are going to give a demonstration about the importance and benefits of such school trips.
- 2.6 Rachel Thomas, Head of RE at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, will also give a presentation on the work the school is doing to commemorate HMD and to raise awareness of holocaust issues.
- 2.7 In addition, Appendix 1 refers to the visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau by pupils from Bedwas Comprehensive School, as published in the Times Educational Supplement.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are invited to discuss and note the presentation.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Lesson in the death camp (Bedwas Comprehensive)