

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 13TH MARCH 2018

SUBJECT: HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2018 - FEEDBACK

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Caerphilly SACRE on the events that took place across the county borough to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2018.

B BACKGROUND

The International Day of Remembrance saw a host of events taking place across Wales. Libraries across Caerphilly County Borough organised themed book displays in the week leading up to Holocaust Memorial Day, and a number of other commemorative events were also held in the area.

SACRE Members were invited to a special service to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, which was held at Penallta House Council Offices on Friday 26th January 2018. The ceremony involved readings by pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Caerffili and the lighting of a symbolic candle, and guests had the opportunity to view poetry and artwork produced by pupils of the school. The event, which was led by the Mayor and Deputy Leader of the Council, was very well received and attended by a large number of staff, councillors, members of the public and dignitaries from the area.

Ahead of the day itself, a letter was sent to all schools on behalf of SACRE, to advise them of the resources available via the Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) website and encouraging them to mark the event in some way. A large number of schools participated in the event and the following schools reported back on their activities:-

Fochriw Primary School held a session involving discussion and personal reflection amongst its Year 5/6 pupils.

Gilfach Fargoed Primary School held a special assembly on this year's theme "The Power of Words". They had a presentation on the life and legacy of Anne Frank, and explored how words can be used for good. The older children also held class discussions.

Pentwynmawr Primary School held several assemblies that week, including one on Judaism, one on Anne Frank and a basic one on the Holocaust.

Ysgol Gymraeg Caerffili were very proud of pupils Alice, Mili and Daniel for taking part in the service at Penallta House. In addition, two staff members who had visited Auschwitz in June 2016, discussed the visit and the theme of the Holocaust with the school's book club, which inspired them to create artwork and poems, and led to the reading and discussion of Holocaust poems.

St Cenydd Community School held an act of collective worship to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. During registration time students examined the different ways to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive. During RE/RS lessons, pupils examined the life stories of some of the survivors, victims and witnesses of the Holocaust. Eva Clarke's testimony has always been a popular choice due to Eva's connections to Wales.

C RECOMMENDATION

For Caerphilly SACRE to note the details of the events arranged to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2018.