

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 19 OCTOBER 2017

SUBJECT: HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2018

PURPOSE: TO INFORM THE SACRE OF HMD 2018

BACKGROUND

Holocaust Memorial Day is an annual event that takes place on January 27th and was established in the UK in 2000 with the first HMD held in January 2001. January 27th marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz- Birkenhau 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>

RECOMMENDATION

- The Local Authority to write to schools reminding them of HMD 2018 and circulate the information on HMD and reference the website for appropriate resources www.hmd.org.uk.
- The Local Authority to inform schools of the HMD Service at St Woolos Cathedral

Please Note

The order of services for HMD 2017 held by Newport at St Woolos Cathedral has been submitted to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust website.