

Scottish Continuing International Professional Development (SCIPD)

Final Report

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Final Report

Roslyn Kane
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SCIPD group study visit - Berlin

Background Information

Berlin, Germany May 2009

Learning and teaching Scotland organised a group study visit to Berlin, Germany May 2009. The Theme of the visit was Holocaust Education in a German context.

The four day study visit included:

The holocaust 'Memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe',

The Jewish Museum, Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum

House of the Wannsee Conference (place where Nazis planned the 'final solution')

The purpose of the study visit was to explore various approaches to learning and teaching about issues such as genocide, diversity and tolerance. To promote teaching strategies through subject based and interdisciplinary approaches which fit with 'curriculum for excellence.'

As a follow up participants on the course were expected to disseminate key messages to their school communities on aspects of what they had learned.

Holocaust Education workshop - LTS

A follow up course for developing Holocaust education took place in the Stirling Management Centre, October 2009. The workshop was offered as part of the LTS '**Developing Global Citizens**' programme. The first workshop looked at holocaust education within the curriculum for excellence framework with teachers from various schools around Scotland sharing examples of good practice. The afternoon workshops looked at: **Holocaust Memorial Day Trust** campaign materials for 2010 "A Legacy of Hope" - Carly Whyborn and Catherine Bowness, and the Anne Frank Trust Scotland resources - Heather Boyce.

Senior pupils visit to Auschwitz - Holocaust Educational Trust

Robyn Barr S6 and Suzanne Bagnall S6 represented the school on the lessons from Auschwitz project in September this year. The project consists of two seminars, A one day visit to Poland and a 'next steps' project, through which students pass on the lessons they have learned.

The impact of the study visit experience on the individual's professional development

The Berlin visit in May 2009 provided me with an opportunity to 'rediscover' the lessons of the holocaust. The experience of seeing and learning about the holocaust within a German context allowed me to make tangible connections with historical events, places and people. I found this experience invaluable as it gave me a fresh perspective and allowed me to reengage with holocaust education. Further more it provided me with an enthusiasm to engage others - staff, pupils, other professional colleagues. I wanted to 'recreate' certain aspects of what I had experienced in Berlin as I was completely inspired by 'the Memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe' and the Jewish Museum, and as a result of this experience I attempted to create a remembrance room in school. Staff and pupils found this a very moving and powerful experience as it allowed them to confront the holocaust at a very personal and human level. For me this was the most important aim I wanted to achieve in school as the Berlin visit confronted me with the same powerful experience - confronting the holocaust at a personal, human level.

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Dissemination activities they are undertaking to share their extended knowledge with colleagues.

Initial meetings to set up a whole school event

Initially between Head Teacher and Head of RE to discuss experience of Berlin and to plan out what was possible within the school. These initial meetings created opportunities for further meetings with **social inclusion/sense over sectarianism officer Alison Logan** who provided a wealth of support both financially and with contacts/ resources that could be used for Holocaust education. Further meetings included working with **Heather Boyce from Anne Frank Scotland** who trained S6 pupils to deliver an exhibition on the life of Anne Frank to the school community.

Ongoing meetings with **S6 pupils who visited Auschwitz in October 2009** took place on a weekly basis as a means of support to pupils to help them discuss their experiences and to talk through what they could do during Holocaust Memorial week to share what they had learned with others in the school. This resulted in the S6 pupils preparing and delivering an assembly on the lesson of Auschwitz which was delivered to every year group. The visit had made a clear impact on the pupils becoming confident individuals, responsible citizens, successful learners and effective contributors and this was shown clearly in their assembly. Further to this pupils arranged for a holocaust survivor to visit the school and speak to S5/6 pupils about their own experience.

Lunchtime presentation to staff

Delivered by Head of RE and S6 pupils: Robyn Barr and Suzanne Bagnall

The presentation Explained Holocaust Memorial Day to staff and was also an opportunity to show staff resources available from HMD website.

As a result of the Head of RE attending the above study courses and meetings - the following activities were planned within St. Paul's High School to commemorate the 65th anniversary of Holocaust Memorial Day.



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Any initiative introduced subsequent to the study visit

December

Anne Frank Trust- Exhibition

S6 pupils were trained to deliver the exhibition on the life of Anne Frank. This exhibition was delivered by our S6 pupils to staff, parents, and every year group across the school. The exhibition charted the rise of Nazis power in Germany as a backdrop to the life of Anne Frank and her family.

January

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer was delivered by sixth pupils for each day of Holocaust memorial week. The Focus of prayer and reflection was based on Holocaust Memorial Day and Modern Genocide.

Service commemorating the children of the Holocaust.

This provided the opportunity for all first year pupils to commemorate the children who lost their lives in the holocaust. All first year classes were involved in a service during religious education time. The names of children who lost their lives in the Holocaust were added to a 'Tree of Hope' during the service. Many first year pupils delivered this service at lunchtime during Holocaust Memorial Day. This was their way of commemorating the children of the Holocaust.

Assemblies on the holocaust

Every year group attended an assembly on the Holocaust. Explaining what holocaust Memorial Day is and listening to some survivors of the holocaust on DVD presentation. S6 pupils Robyn Barr and Suzanne Bagnall delivered their presentation on their visit to Auschwitz -showing the pupils what they saw and learned from this experience.

Holocaust Survivor - Eva Clarke

Eva gave a talk on her life story to all fifth and sixth year pupils - followed by a question and answer session. Eva was born in Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria on the 29th of April 1945. Eva and her mother were the only survivors from their immediate family, 15 members of whom were killed in Auschwitz - grandparents, her father, uncles, aunts and her 7 year old cousin Peter. The American Army liberated the camp 3 days after Eva's birth. The timing of their arrival ensured the ultimate survival of both mother and daughter. After the war, in 1948 Eva, her mother and step father immigrated to the UK. In 1968 Eva married an academic lawyer. Today she has two sons and continues to live in Britain.

Legacy of Hope

Eva informed us that she is her mother's legacy of hope as she is a mother herself with two sons, a grand-daughter and with two grandchildren due in the summer months.



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January

Remembrance Room

The remembrance room was set up by the Religious Education Department during the month of January. It had a number of features:

The hall of names commemorated the victims who lost their lives in the holocaust both adults and children from various countries around Europe. **The memorial wall** showed pictures of /families/adults/children who were murdered in the holocaust. Every picture was donated by relatives in their memory from the Yad Vashem website. Each picture has a profile that includes what was known of their life: where they were born? Where they lived? If they married? Or had children? What profession they had? And what camp they perished in? Staff and pupils were given the opportunity to visit the remembrance room and to research one name from the list at some point throughout the week

The Glass Cabinet contains a visual aid symbolising the shoes and clothes that were left in the death camps and reminds us visually of the loss of life. A candle was projected in the room continually with music written by Zbigniew Koczanowiczis. (Part of the music collection at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.) It was written in April of 1945 at Falkensee, a sub camp of Sachsenhausen where Koczanowicz was interned.) **Jewish artifacts** were also displayed in the room - a reminder of the Jewish faith, Jewish life and the Jewish religion.

In the middle of the room was a **remembrance book** where pupils and staff were encouraged to write prayers, thoughts on the holocaust and to record anything that they learned about the person they were remembering that week. Around the room were testimonies from survivors of the holocaust and poems written about the holocaust.



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**Initiatives within their local authority – Glasgow City Council
Alison Logan – social inclusion/sense over sectarianism officer.**

Films Shown at GFT as part of holocaust education

A selection of S6 pupils visited the GFT for the showing of a German film:

'Am Ende Kommen Touristen'

Film is about a 19 year old German boy (Sven) who is sent to Auschwitz on work experience and he forms a relationship with a holocaust survivor, who has never left the camp. Sven knows little about the Holocaust and through his difficult relationship with Stanislaw begins to develop an understanding of it. Pupils completed follow up work during Religious education time. This was a written piece of work which reflected what they learned and understood by the holocaust.

Boy in stripped pyjamas -

A selection of S1 pupils visited the GFT for the showing of the film: Boy in the stripped pyjamas. Pupils completed follow up work during Religious education time. Pupils prepared and delivered a memorial service to commemorate the children of the holocaust.

Citizens Theatre Young Co – 'Voices from the Holocaust'

Short production based around readings of holocaust survivors. S2 pupils watched performance in school and engaged in a discussion based workshop with cast on their understandings of the holocaust and genocide.



CPD opportunity is available for Staff

Two -light session on 27 January lasting 2hours at the city chambers.

A number of staff in the school attended this in-service.

Workshop delivered by Linda Hooper – who developed the paperclips project for pupils in her school to engage learning of the holocaust.

Memorial Event

A selection of first year pupils, staff and S6 pupils attended the Glasgow city council memorial event for holocaust memorial day on 26th January at the city chambers.

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The wider impact of initiatives within school Holocaust Education across the School

Social Subjects Department

3 lessons were taught during Holocaust memorial week:

The first of which looked at prejudice, pupils were able to identify why fear/difference and lack of resources might lead to prejudice.

The second lesson looked at a brief history of Nazi Germany and why the Jews in particular (drawing on previous lesson on prejudice) Pupils learned about the progressive nature of the Nazi treatment of the Jews and ultimately the Final Solution – the aim was for the pupils to see that it was a gradual process and that the Holocaust was a build up of prejudice and acceptance.

The third lesson looked at images of the holocaust, pupils were shown the images of the liberation of Bergen - Belson and heard the interview of the Richard Dimbleby - the pupils discussed the images and the experiences of those who lived and died there. We also listened to interviews of Holocaust survivors using the LTS Voices of the Holocaust.

The object was of the three lessons was to encourage empathy, raise awareness and understanding of the Holocaust.

Faculty of Technology

Technical Department contributed to the school remembrance room by creating the glass cabinets for our visual display of clothes and shoes. Pupils were given the task to design a memorial for the remembrance room. Pupils designed candle holders with the best design to be awarded a prize. The technical department hope to build on the design of the memorial for next year.

Home Economics department worked on lessons of the holocaust from a dietary perspective. Pupils compared the 'eat well plate' used in our Scottish Diet lessons with the foods available to a Jewish family during the holocaust.

Business Education department worked on lessons from the holocaust through the use of ICT. Pupils were shown a holocaust PowerPoint and then pupils prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the life of Anne Frank.

English Department

Second year pupils learned about the Holocaust in two parts. The first part informed pupils of the historical rise to power of the Nazis and the second part looked at the life of Anne Frank within this period of time. The first Lesson looked at in detail the rise of the Nazi party within Germany. The second lesson allowed pupils to do a critical evaluation and character study within the play of 'the diary of Anne Frank'. The third lesson allowed pupils the choice to respond to what they had learned by producing a biography on the life of Anne Frank or an imaginative essay about the secret annex.

First year learned about the holocaust through the film 'the boy in the stripped pyjamas'. Pupils then produced a critical evaluation of the story and a reflective piece of writing showing what they had learned.

Creative and Performing Arts Department

Fifth and sixth year pupils researched poems on the holocaust from the HMD website. They then created and composed music to accompany poems. Pupils will then be able to use this research for their Inventing folio for the SQA exam.



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Maths Department

First and second year received two lessons on the holocaust from the Maths Department. The department used numbers and shapes to explain how many people the Nazis persecuted and how many groups were affected by this persecution. The lesson aimed to make sense of the numbers and relate them to human experience of the holocaust.

French Department

The modern languages department studied the holocaust from a French perspective. Third year pupils researched the plight of the Jews in France in World War II. They produced a wall display to show what they had learned. S3/4/5/6 pupils watched the Louis Malle film 'Au revoir, les enfants'. This film is based on the director's own wartime experience when the priest in charge of his boarding school hid Jewish boys from the Nazis and the Vichy government. Sadly, the Jewish boys were betrayed and they all died in the Holocaust as did the priest who sheltered them.

Pupils then collated what they had learned and displayed their findings.

Religious Education Department

The Religious education department informed pupils of the holocaust both within the classroom and at whole school level. Through the Holocaust Memorial Room pupils were timetabled to spend some time in the memorial room and were shown how to find out about one person who was killed in the holocaust and to commemorate their life by finding out about that person and recording it into our remembrance book. Pupils were given time to write up their research in the book of remembrance. It was explained to pupils by *doing so we commemorated the person's life, giving back their dignity as a human being, honouring them in death.*

Everything in the remembrance room was aimed to make people stop and think about the impact the holocaust had, the amount of lives destroyed and the importance of remembering those who lost their lives. Around the edge of the room is a **chain of paperclips** linked together - another way of symbolizing lost lives.

The Religious Education Department were responsible for whole school assemblies during holocaust memorial week - introducing the concept of Holocaust Memorial Day to each year group and why it was important as a school to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.

All first year classes were involved in a service to commemorate the children of the Holocaust during religious education time. The names of children who lost their lives in the Holocaust were added to a 'Tree of Hope' during the service. Many first year pupils delivered this service at lunchtime during Holocaust Memorial Day.

Morning Prayer was delivered by the religious education department and sixth pupils for each day of Holocaust memorial week. The Focus of prayer and reflection was based on Holocaust Memorial Day and Modern Genocide and allowed the school community to stop and reflect and pray each day on the issue of genocide and our Christian duty to 'love one another.'

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Impact of Holocaust Memorial Events within school

The aim of holocaust memorial week was to:

- Raise awareness of the holocaust and modern day genocide.
- To raise the profile of lessons on the holocaust and to improve pupil understanding.
- To try and foster empathy for those who were killed and to reflect on why this was wrong.
- To remember one person who was killed in the holocaust by finding out about their life and recording this in our school remembrance book.
- To work on a holocaust education strand within St. Pauls High school.
- To remember the lessons of the Holocaust so that it never happens again.

Holocaust memorial week within St. Pauls provided a focus for the whole school community to reflect on the impact of the holocaust at a personal level. Where for the first time as a school community we commemorated the deaths of all those killed in the holocaust during our week of remembrance. Pupils and staff understanding had been developed in terms of beginning to realise the scale of the holocaust that took place across Europe and then reflecting on the human cost of the holocaust from a personal level. The remembrance room allowed staff and pupils the opportunity to reflect on the human cost of the holocaust by personalising the death and suffering that took place.

It is hoped that the remembrance room can become a permanent feature within our school building as a lasting memorial to all those who lost their lives in the holocaust. Discussions are taking place at Senior Management Level to find an appropriate place for this to happen. The memorial book allowed staff and pupils to record their own thoughts and feelings, prayers or what they had learned about the one person they had researched that week. It is hoped that the memorial book will also become a permanent feature of Holocaust Memorial Day.

The experience of the holocaust survivor for staff and upper school – all S5 and S6 made the holocaust tangible and real for our students and staff - again learning about the lessons of the holocaust from a personal level. It is also hoped that more pupils from the school can experience the lessons of holocaust through continued visits to Auschwitz and other places related to educating children and staff on the Holocaust and modern day genocide and by doing so to continue to pass on what they learned to the whole school community.

Long-term 'added value' to children in Scottish classrooms

Prior to visit to Berlin in May 2009 it was my intention to develop a holocaust learning strand(s) across the school. I had hoped to achieve this through curriculum for excellence and to involve other departments. On reflection I feel I have certainly exceeded this expectation.

As a result of the Lunchtime presentation to staff understanding of the holocaust was high profile across the school were many departments took the opportunity to allow student to learn the lessons of the holocaust within their subject context. It is hoped that this good practice can be built upon for next year with a clear education strand for holocaust education in St. Pauls High school.

It would be my aim to continue to develop key learning strands for each year group/subject by focusing on a particular aspect of the holocaust, its memory and the lessons we must take from it today. On reflection the outcomes of whole school events, authority events and learning across the school on holocaust and modern genocide have enabled pupils to be successful learners, effective contributors, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

