

# Holocaust Memorial Day

27 January



Webpage with video

## 1. As the pupils enter

Have the [webpage open](#). Play your chosen music and display the image from 1944.

## 2. Introduction

Tell the assembly that 27 January is Holocaust Memorial Day. Give them brief, clear details of the Holocaust. You might say: *Holocaust is the name given to Hitler's attempt to wipe out the Jewish people of Europe. During the Second World War - 1939 to 1945 - Hitler led the Nazi party which ruled Germany. On his orders, Jewish people were put in prison camps and many were killed. Families were torn apart. Around six million Jewish people were murdered by the Nazis, as well as disabled and gay people. On Holocaust Memorial Day we remember all those who faced such cruelty, both in Nazi Germany and in similar, more recent, horrors around the world. Today we're going to watch as two school children interview someone who lived through the Holocaust.*

## 3. Play the video

Duration: 5' 32". Final words: '...be respectful of one another.'

## 4. Time to talk

Be silent to begin with as a mark of respect. Then ask: *How do you think Steven felt when he was made to wear the yellow star badge?* [Gather responses.]

Remind pupils of the family photographs in the video. They show Steven's father, but Steven only mentions his brothers and his mother in the camp. Ask: *What do you think might have happened to Steven's father?* [Gather responses.]

Remind pupils how Steven's mother protected them in the prison camp from the killer disease typhus by washing their clothes secretly in the hospital laundry. Ask: *What might have happened to them if she had been caught?*

Ask: *Steven clearly went through a terrible, terrible time. So why do you think he made this video? What do you think Steven's message to us would be?* Gather the responses and close with Steven's own words: *We are all different but we should all be respectful to one another.*

## 5. Opportunity to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.

## 6. Opportunity to reflect

Ask everyone to close their eyes. Tell them: *The Holocaust shows the worst of human behaviour: racism and cruelty. But it also shows us how strong, kind and brave we can be. When we see the people in our lives treated cruelly, what should we do to help? What will you do to be strong, courageous and kind?*

## 7. Opportunity for prayer

Use your standard form of address ('Dear God', 'Dear Lord', 'Let us pray', etc) and:

*We remember all those who experienced the Holocaust, both those that died and those that survived.*

*Help them all find peace.*

*And help us to always be ready to stand up to cruelty. Help us to be strong and brave and kind, so such things can not happen again.*

*Amen.*