“A year on, the programme has gone way beyond my expectations. The impact... has been quite incredible. It has stimulated me intellectually and has given me a real sense of purpose. I have learnt so much! It has been... the highlight of a 29 year career.”

History teacher

TRANSFORMING TEACHING & LEARNING
The Centre for Holocaust Education Beacon School Programme is the most effective teacher development programme in Holocaust education in England. A partnership in which the world’s leading university for education helps schools to transform their pupils’ understanding of this complex and emotionally-challenging subject.

University College London, Institute of Education
Centre for Holocaust Education
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What is the Centre for Holocaust Education Beacon School Programme?

Each year, the Centre for Holocaust Education works intensively with 20 secondary schools across England. Comprising a four day residential seminar in London; a teacher study visit to sites of the Holocaust in Poland; free CPD for school staff; exceptional teaching and learning materials; the development of school cluster groups; and ongoing support from the world’s leading university for education, this is one of the most ambitious school development programmes in England.

All aspects of the programme are provided to schools free of charge, including hotels, flights, excursions, meals, CPD, venues, and university expertise and consultancy, due to generous funding by Pears Foundation, Department for Education, and the Claims Conference.

Aims

The Centre for Holocaust Education works with schools to enable young people to deepen their understanding of the significance of the Holocaust and to explore its relevance for their own lives and the contemporary world.

Developing this area of the school curriculum has also been shown to have significant benefits for broader educational goals, for pupil engagement and achievement, and for teaching and learning across a range of subject disciplines.

The programme seeks:

- To raise the status of Holocaust education in schools, embedding it within schools’ ethos and ensuring it becomes a priority area in the curriculum.

- To support schools in the development of more powerful Schemes of Work, linking aims, outstanding educational resources and advanced pedagogical approaches to clearer understandings about pupil progress and robust forms of assessment.

- To demonstrate the value of teaching and learning about the Holocaust to broader educational values such as SMSC; Global Learning; active, democratic citizenship; and pupils’ development of independent and critical thinking.

- To create Beacon Schools that serve as dynamic hubs within school networks, models of how good teaching and learning about the Holocaust can make a major contribution to young people’s education.
Why would a school apply?

This free of charge and expenses paid, yearlong programme is an opportunity for your school to partner with the world’s leading university for education¹, to raise the quality of learning and expectations in your school, helping your students to become more engaged in their own learning and more independent, critical thinkers.

- Enhance school identity by being at the forefront of a bold, new, national initiative.
- Benefit from the Centre’s national research on student understandings, gaining insights into issues of progression and assessment for learning. Transfer expertise developed on the programme to other school areas, subjects and disciplines.
- Develop school expertise in teaching about the Holocaust, with strong benefits to broader educational goals, helping to make your SMSC and Global Learning provision outstanding.
- Deepen understanding about the importance of relating educational aims, pupil progress and assessment in coherent and effective Schemes of Work, transferrable to other curriculum areas.

The 2015 report of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission found examples of excellent practice, including:

“World-class research, teacher education... and ‘Beacon Schools’ programmes pioneered by the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education”²

- Inspire, invigorate and motivate school staff.
- The Lead Teacher will benefit from an intensive four day residential seminar at one of the world’s leading universities, and a study visit to Poland, exploring Holocaust-related sites in Warsaw, Jadów and Treblinka. These will deepen substantive knowledge, relate learning about the Holocaust to wider curriculum issues, and immerse her/him in advanced pedagogical approaches, with clear benefits to wider teaching.
- Provide an opportunity for career development for the Lead Teacher, cultivating leadership skills.
- Your wider staff body will benefit from free CPD at a local venue on a date convenient for you.
- Enhance relationships with local schools through collaboration and sharing of good practice with your local network.
- Share and gain from the expertise and experience of other school colleagues across the country as the programme builds a critical mass of school resources and expertise through the Beacon Schools network.

¹ UCL Institute of Education was ranked first for education in the 2014 QS World Rankings; it was also rated ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted on all criteria at every level for initial teacher training
Five key phases

I: Preparation, September-October 2015
New Beacon Schools participate in the online welcome session, 16:00-17:30 on 15 September.
SLT communicate the importance of Holocaust education in their School Improvement Plan.
Lead Teachers map the school’s existing provision of teaching and learning about the Holocaust,
speaking to colleagues to find out where and when the Holocaust is covered, with what aims, content
and resources, and how young people’s progression is monitored and assessed.
Beacon Schools begin to develop a network of schools who will participate in a local CPD day later in
the academic year, paid for and run by the Centre for Holocaust Education.
23 October 2015: Orientation for SLT and Lead Teachers at Imperial War Museum, London

II: London Residential Seminar, 24-27 October 2015
Lead Teachers from 20 Beacon Schools participate in an intensive four day professional development
seminar in Holocaust education at the world’s leading university for education, UCL Institute of
Education. This seminar will deepen substantive knowledge about the Holocaust and explore in depth
crucial issues relating to curriculum design, including:
Aims: Why is it important for young people to know about the Holocaust?
Content: Given limited curriculum time, what is essential for young people’s understanding of the
Holocaust?
Research: What does the Centre’s national study of young people’s thinking, knowledge and
understanding tell us about how they make sense of the Holocaust? What are the implications for
teaching?
Pedagogy: What classroom approaches are effective – what do we know from research into learning
theory about how students make progress in their understanding?
Assessment: What does it mean to ‘get better’ at knowing the Holocaust? What do we want students to
learn from this new knowledge? How can we measure students’ attainment in these areas?

III: Create & teach improved Schemes of Work, October 2015 – July 2016
A range of curriculum models will be developed across the Beacon Schools, specific to the particular
contexts of learners. Lead teachers will be supported by staff at the Centre for Holocaust Education.
IV: Four day study visit to Poland, 6-9 May 2016
This visit will inform and enrich the development of the curriculum models that form the core of Phase III. It focuses on the diversity of pre-war Jewish life; the struggle for survival in the Warsaw ghetto; the dilemmas and responses of the victims; the death camp of Treblinka; the legacy and significance of the Holocaust; what do we choose to remember and what to forget; the pedagogy of site visits and the methodologies of learning at authentic sites.

V: Dissemination, June – July 2016
Each of the 20 Beacon Schools share their Schemes of Work, approaches and materials with five partner schools in its locality, ensuring that a further 100 schools across the country directly benefit.
How to apply

Please carefully read the information below and then complete the accompanying application form, returning this to Ashleigh Thomson at holocaust@ioe.ac.uk by 3 June 2015.

Schools will be informed whether their application is successful by the end of the day 15 June 2015.

What qualifies a school for Beacon School status?

Commitment, creativity and innovation
A Beacon School will be committed to the view that the Holocaust is a critically important part of young peoples’ education while appreciating the complex challenges that the Holocaust raises as a school subject. Schools need to demonstrate an existing commitment to the importance of Holocaust education as well as a keenness to embrace creativity and innovation into their curriculum.

Schools chosen for the programme will not be expected to already have exemplary Holocaust education embedded into their school teaching and learning programme. Being part of the Beacon School programme is a process rather than an end point. What is required is a commitment to increasing expertise and teaching standards to advanced levels.

Lead Teacher
It is important that each Beacon School identifies a dynamic Lead Teacher who will take the project forward and coordinate Holocaust education at your school. The key aim for this teacher is to embed pedagogical approaches, teaching and learning materials into their schools, developing a Scheme of Work to evidence how this has been achieved. As such, the Lead Teacher should already have completed the Centre’s full day CPD Unpacking the Holocaust and, ideally, some of the Centre’s twilight CPD sessions. The Lead Teacher should work closely with colleagues across the school to consider how different departments may contribute to young people’s understanding about the Holocaust, their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and Global Learning.

We would like Beacon Schools to be working at Master’s level, so preference may be given to those who have completed the Masters Module: The Holocaust in the Curriculum, a 10 week online course that is fully funded and incurs no cost to the teacher or the school. If this module, which is designed to work around a busy teaching job, has not yet been completed then the Lead Teacher and/or a school colleague will be encouraged to complete it during the summer term 2016.

Senior Leadership Team
The school will nominate a member of its Senior Leadership Team who will support the Lead Teacher within the Beacon School, making it possible for them to attend all elements of the programme; giving the Lead Teacher time to develop the school’s Scheme of Work; encouraging colleagues within the school to explore how they can become involved, contribute to, and benefit from this work. The SLT will ensure that the Lead Teacher’s work is identified, recognised and supported in their performance management/ appraisal process.

SLT will assist the Lead Teacher in reaching out to a network of at least five other schools, advocating the wider benefits of developing strong Holocaust education and inviting teachers from these schools to join members of your teaching staff on a free Professional Development Day provided by the Centre in
Roles and responsibilities

Lead Teacher

As Lead Teacher, with the support of the school’s SLT, your primary commitments will be to:

- Advance your leadership skills, taking responsibility for the development of Holocaust education across your school, promoting good practice, exploring the potential of whole school initiatives and cross-curricular approaches. You will help to raise teaching standards and pupil achievement, and contribute significantly to making your school’s SMSC and Global Learning outstanding.

- Ensure that your role in the Beacon School programme is discussed and explored in your performance management/ appraisal.

- Participate in an after-school, online welcome session (16:00-17:30 on 15 September) to ‘virtually meet’ other Beacon School Lead Teachers, SLT and the Centre’s team, to learn more about the programme, and to clarify aims, roles, and expectations.

- Join a half day orientation session (together with a member of your Senior Leadership Team) at Imperial War Museum London on the afternoon of Friday 23 October, on how the Beacon School programme can raise standards in your school, have deep impact on your students’ learning, and promote the development of your school’s SMSC provision.

- Attend an expenses paid, four-day residential seminar at UCL Institute of Education. You will stay in top-quality hotel accommodation in the heart of London's Bloomsbury, and all meals will be covered by the programme. At the seminar you will:
  - Collaborate with leading experts in Holocaust education, pedagogy, assessment and curriculum design, sharing your own experience and good practice and working together to raise teaching standards in your school.
  - Explore how you can make your school’s SMSC and Global Learning outstanding through more powerful, meaningful and effective Holocaust education.
  - Consider how you can empower young people with deeper knowledge and the capacity for more critical thinking; helping pupils to make genuine progress in their understanding of the Holocaust, deepening their knowledge, becoming more independent thinkers, and constructing meaning for themselves.

- Take part in a powerful, intensely-moving study visit to sites of the Holocaust in Warsaw and its environs, with flights, travel within Poland, excursions, entrance fees, hotel accommodation and meals all paid for by the programme. You will deepen your understanding not only of key issues connected with the Holocaust but also of pedagogical approaches to learning at your locality. The Centre for Holocaust Education will cover all costs of this day (venue hire, meals, and educational materials).
authentic sites that will be directly transferrable to other school visits.

- Draw upon the experience of the London residential and the study visit to Warsaw and, with the support of experts from the Centre for Holocaust Education, review and develop your Scheme of Work, embedding the Centre’s pedagogical approaches and high quality teaching materials, adapted to your school context and the learning needs of your students.

- Contact at least five other secondary schools, arranging a date and local venue for the Centre to provide their staff, and colleagues from your own school, with the full-day CPD Unpacking the Holocaust. These schools will form your Beacon School network, with whom you will also share the ideas and experiences that underpin your new Scheme of Work.

- With time permitting, devise ways for tangible/measurable dissemination of good practice, such as contributions at Subject Association conferences; writing a paper; or showcasing students’ work to parents, governors, or other school communities.

School Leadership Team

The Centre for Holocaust Education Beacon School programme has the potential to contribute to whole-school development, so the support of SLT is critical:

- Include the development of the Beacon School role in your School Improvement Plan. Incorporate the Beacon School programme as an element of the Lead Teacher’s Performance Management/ Appraisal, whether through formal targets, CPD support or at the very least through formal acknowledgement of their leadership and development of this initiative within the school.

- Participate in an after-school online welcome session (16:00-17:30 on 15 September) to ‘virtually meet’ other Beacon School Lead Teachers, SLT and the Centre’s team, to learn more about the programme, and to clarify aims, roles, and expectations.

- Join your Lead Teacher on a half day orientation session on the afternoon of Friday 23 October at the Imperial War Museum, London, on how the Beacon School programme can raise standards in your school, have deep impact on your students’ learning, and promote the development of your school’s SMSC and Global Learning provision.

- Encourage your Headteacher/ Principal, governors, parents, teachers, support staff and students to understand the goals and activities of the Beacon School and to explore with them how they can become involved, contribute to, and benefit from this work.

- Reach out to a network of at least five other schools, explaining to them the benefits of developing strong Holocaust education and inviting them to attend a free CPD led by the Centre for Holocaust Education.

- Support the Lead Teacher in attending all elements of the programme, and allocate time to develop the school’s Scheme of Work in Holocaust education. Work with the school’s CPD
coordinator to ensure that designated Beacon School dates (for CPD/ meetings etc) are diarised and that cover is facilitated.

- Drive commitment for CPD in Holocaust education within the school and across the network and inculcate a culture of sharing good practice.

Centre for Holocaust Education

The university recognises that excellent practice is best achieved in partnership with innovative and creative schools and undertakes to:

- Provide the online welcome session; half-day orientation; four-day London Residential Seminar; and the Study Visit to Poland free of charge.

- Pay all costs of flights, hotels, venue hire, meals, lecture and workshop fees, and educational materials throughout the year-long programme (but not supply cover or transport between school and London).

- Work closely with Lead Teachers to advance their leadership skills, enhance specialist knowledge, and develop advanced teaching approaches, enabling them to play a key role within their schools and support their career development.

- Provide expert advice, school-based consultancy and guidance, sharing research findings from our national study into how young people make sense of the Holocaust, and the implications for teaching and learning.

- Provide detailed guidance and support for the development of Schemes of Work, including visits to each Beacon School to offer friendly advice in the implementation of new ideas and resources and to consider key issues of aims, content, pedagogy, progression and assessment.

- Provide a full day of CPD free of charge to Beacon School teachers and those from their network schools, covering all costs for this to be hosted in the Beacon School or nearby conference venue, as well as meals, refreshments, educational resources, travel and accommodation of Centre staff.

- Offer additional twilight CPD sessions for Beacon Schools and their networks on a range of issues relating to effective Holocaust education, free of charge and expenses paid, including evening food and wine reception.

- Offer free access to the MA online module *The Holocaust in the Curriculum* to Beacon School Lead Teachers and their colleagues who meet the application criteria.

- Share new resources and educational activities with Beacon Schools and offer opportunities to pilot new teaching and learning materials.
• Promote the work of the Beacon Schools through networks and communication channels.

What is the Centre for Holocaust Education?

*The Centre for Holocaust Education was established as part of the Institute of Education in 2008. In December 2014 the Institute of Education merged with University College London (UCL) to form the UCL Institute of Education, the UK’s foremost institution for educational research, theory and practice and rated the world’s leading university for education in the 2014 QS World Rankings.

UCL Institute of Education has also been judged Outstanding by Ofsted at every level and on every criteria of Initial Teacher Education. Its Centre for Holocaust Education combines extensive research into classroom needs with a teacher development programme and effective educational resources specifically designed to meet these challenges.

This is the first time anywhere in the world that a Holocaust education programme has been so responsive to actual classroom needs. UCL Institute of Education is the leading institution in teacher development in the United Kingdom and a world-class provider of Holocaust education.

The Beacon School Programme in Holocaust Education is made possible through generous funding by the Pears Foundation, the Department for Education, and the Claims Conference.