



*We speak with pride about diversity, yet all around us is evidence of an ever-growing need to demonstrate that we're all bound together by a common humanity.*

## **LEARNING FROM THE RIGHTEOUS**

### **OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT...**

“Learning from the Righteous” is a collaborative project between author and educationalist Antony Lishak and The UK Polish Embassy, involving over 300 children in UK-based Jewish schools and Saturday Polish Schools. The project will culminate in an exhibition of the children’s work to be presented at the Embassy on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in commemoration of “The European Day of the Righteous”. This event will be attended by children, parents, their teachers and other specialists in this field of study, and will be the first official recognition of this day in the UK, since its inception in 2012. The aim of the project is to encourage children to write reflectively about specific acts of courage and selflessness carried out by non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust who have been recognised by Yad Vashem (The Centre of Holocaust Study and Remembrance in Jerusalem) as “Righteous Among the Nations”. Antony will lead a series of workshops with the children aged between 11 and 13 throughout January and February, after which the children’s work will be collated to form both a multi-panel exhibition and an accompanying book. It’s is hoped that this exhibition will be displayed at a variety of educational establishments across the country in the following months and that the interest it generates will provide a springboard for broader recognition of “The European Day of the Righteous” in subsequent years.

### **HOW THE WORKSHOPS ARE STRUCTURED**

Antony will lead a series of workshops in three Jewish and two Polish Schools where he will talk to children about the topic. He will initially talk about the background research to his own book, STARS, which is based upon the actions of Jan and Antonina Zabinski at the Warsaw Zoo. He will encourage the children to consider the themes of “courage” and “selflessness” in the broader sense, getting them to reflect on them on a personal level. Then he will outline the wider historical context within which the acts of “righteousness” the children will be studying should be viewed. It is important for the children to know that the stories they will be hearing about were exceptional and that there were fatal consequences of providing any form of assistance to Jews – a policy that was most brutally enforced in Poland. As a result of this input the children will be asked to write a personal response to what they have heard.