

# The Crocus Project 2017/18 Report



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The Crocus Project is an Irish initiative whereby HETI provides yellow Crocus bulbs for young people aged 11 years and older to plant in memory of the 1.5 million Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust and thousands of other children who were victims of Nazi atrocities. The yellow flowers recall the yellow Star of David that Jews were forced to wear under Nazi rule. The Crocus blooms around the end of January, in time for Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January).

The Crocus Project is a tangible way to introduce young people to the subject of the Holocaust and to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and discrimination. The children's involvement in learning about the Holocaust, planting the bulbs and watching the flowers grow, encourages learning about tolerance and respect. HETI provides an Information pack to assist teachers in educating about the Holocaust.

The Crocus Project has grown since 2005 when 6,000 Irish pupils participated. In 2017/18, 1,889 schools and 105,902 students from 10 European countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Hungary, Malta, Poland and Slovakia), participated in The Crocus Project. Over 12 years, a total of 544,000 individual students have planted crocus bulbs. We hope increasing numbers of countries will join The Crocus Project each year until the whole of Europe participates in it and more than 1.5 million crocuses will bloom.

Schools participating in The Crocus Project can use the Facebook Crocus Club group to post messages, share photographs and swap stories of their experiences of involvement in The Crocus Project. This platform connects students, teachers and communities across Europe. Many wonderful projects are shared through this platform.



Students in St Patrick's GNS, HollyPark Foxrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland

Teacher Louise Conlon and her students in St Patrick's Girls National School wrote and performed The Crocus Project Play. It was inspired by Ms Conlon's family connection to the Holocaust. The play was performed several times for local primary schools and members of the community. Members of the Tokar/Gelassen family, whose relatives were murdered in the Holocaust, travelled from France to attend the play.



G. Verga of the Comprehensive Institute "Europa" of Barrafranca, Sicily

Students of Prof. Rosa Ludato, of G. Verga Comprehensive Institute "Europa" in Barrafranca, Sicily, held a closing event of The Crocus Project. The students learnt about tolerance, love and solidarity.



Primary school Mitnica Vukovar, Croatia

For their first year in The Crocus Project, this school created a special crocus garden and dedication plaque.



Students planted crocus bulbs at the mass grave of the Jewish community of Mszana Dolna, Poland.  
*Mszana Dolna, Poland*



Elementary school of T. G. Masaryk Milovice, Czech Republic

Crocus bulbs are planted with plaques, dedicated to children from Czechoslovakia who were murdered in the Holocaust.

## The Crocus Project and the lessons it inspired:

"On Thursday, 05th April, we went for a walk in the city with our little crocuses. We visited the local synagogue and some Holocaust memorial stones."  
*-Dr. Ambedkar High School - Miskolc, Hungary*

"We made a poster and took part in a discussion called "The memory connects us". We also watched a film "There was no hope". We are going to the museum in Auschwitz – Birkenau."  
*-Gynasium in Golezów, Poland*

"The students researched the lives of children during the Holocaust and they presented that to other students in the school. Also, they read the book about Anna Frank and discussed about her life."  
*- Osnovna škola Matija Gubec, Čeminac, Croatia*

The boys reflected: planting flowers is a gesture full of hope, they remind us that in the world there are still beauty and hope for our future.  
*- Istituto Professionale L. Einaudi, Rome, Italy*

"We're running an etwinning project about citizenship, inclusion and democracy."  
*-Istituto Ccomprehensive Crosia Mirto, Italy*

"We talked about the human rights and the role of the EU in protecting them."  
*-Gymnasium Globe, Brno, Czech Republic*



**Holocaust Education Trust Ireland**