

*Anne Frank.*

The Anne Frank Trust UK

# Information Pack

For parents, carers and young people

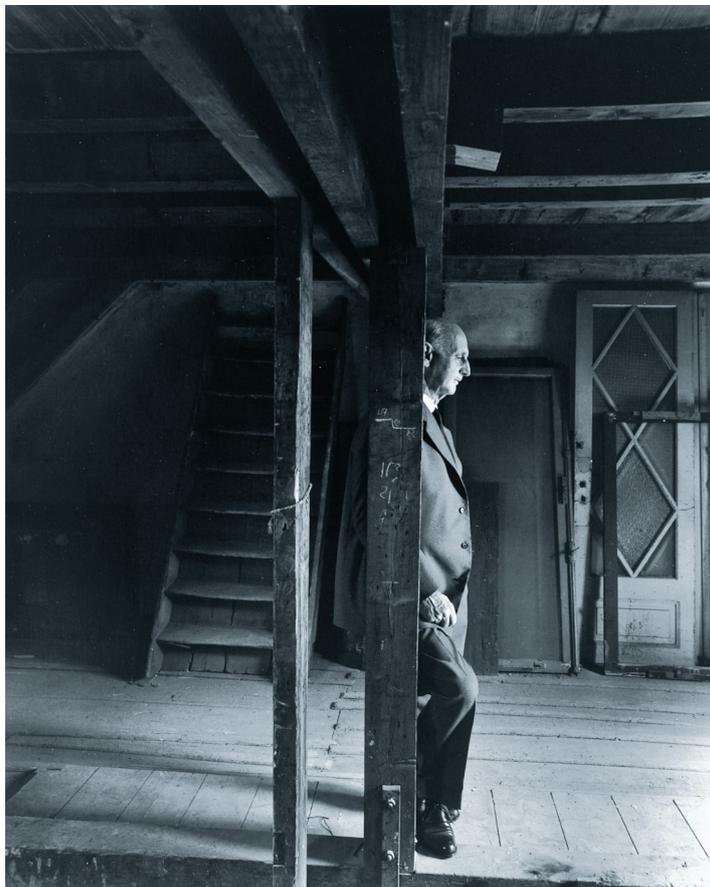


Image of Otto in Attic © Anne Frank House

**“I believe that it is everyone’s  
responsibility to fight prejudice.”**

**Otto Frank**

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## Who We Are

Thank you for downloading The Anne Frank Trust UK Information Pack.

We are an education charity, that empowers young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

We were established in 1991. Our education programmes use Anne Frank's powerful life story and diary as their starting point.

This pack has been created by our Education Team to help you with questions that you and your young people may have about Anne Frank and her diary, antisemitism, the Holocaust, prejudice and discrimination.

We hope that it helps you with answering these questions.



## Guidelines

The Holocaust can be a daunting topic to discuss at home, especially without specialist knowledge.

It is generally recommended that age 10 and up is an appropriate age for introducing and discussing Anne Frank and the Holocaust, but that of course the ability to cope with this topic will vary depending on the individual.

To ensure you feel supported when discussing the Holocaust at home, read and follow the guidelines below.

**Don't use graphic images to shock your children.** Although the Holocaust is an extreme example of prejudice and discrimination, please don't traumatise your young people with graphic images. There are other ways to highlight the suffering and death without using photos.

**Don't ask the young people to imagine themselves as the victims or perpetrators.** There are other ways to help your children empathise and understand what happened.

**Avoid simple answers to complex questions.** These can be questions like "Why did Hitler hate Jews?" By giving a simple answer, it doesn't allow for the complexities and the context of what happened.

**Allow for space and time for discussions.** A lot of the work of The Anne Frank Trust UK centres on allowing time for students to discuss issues that they may not previously had the space to discuss.

**Take time to create a safe space.** Allow your young people to take a break from the discussion and let them know that it is okay to feel upset.

**It's okay to answer questions your young people may have with "I don't know, but we could try to find out together." (where appropriate and possible).** The Holocaust as a topic is very complex, detailed and can be confusing. It's okay if you don't know everything. The investigation should be careful so use trusted sources with adult guidance.



## Key Terms

### The Holocaust

The **Holocaust** was the **systematic persecution and mass murder of Jewish people by the Nazis during World War II**. Historians continuously debate when the Holocaust started and finished but most agree that it began in **1933**, when Hitler became Chancellor of Germany and ended in **1945**, when World War II ended. However, some argue the effect of the **Holocaust** continues with children and grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors.

### Other victims of Nazi persecution

The other victims of Nazi persecution were the Roma and Sinti people (the genocide is known as the Porajmos), black people, people (especially children) with disabilities, LGBT people, Polish people and Hitler's political opponents.

During their time in power, **the Nazis murdered** approximately **17 million people**, **6 million of those were Jewish people** and the other **11 million were from the communities and groups above**.

### Antisemitism

**Antisemitism** is the term for hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group.

More recently, the term **Anti-Jewish Racism** is becoming more popular to describe this type of racism.

### **But is Antisemitism racism?**

Believing that humans are categorised into different races is dangerous. In reality, some people believe in categorising and judging people on their skin colour, ethnicity and country they are from.

Judaism is a religion and has nothing to do with skin colour or country of origin, **Antisemitism** is described as racism due to the prejudiced ideas of people who hate Jews and those people who believe that Judaism is a race.

## Key Terms

### Propaganda

Propaganda is information, especially of a biased (one-sided) or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.

The Nazis used posters, the radio, children's books and newspapers to show their one-sided opinion. More recently, people are using social media to promote propaganda.

### Prejudice

When you judge a person badly before you know them. This happens for various reasons. It might be because of their religion (for example **antisemitism** or **Islamophobia**), their skin colour (**racism**), their age (**ageism**) or because they have a disability (**ableism**).

### Discrimination

Unfair treatment of a person or group. An example of this might be not giving someone a job because of their gender (**sexism**), they are older (**ageism**), or their sexuality and/or gender identity (**homophobia**, **biphobia** and **transphobia**).

### Persecution

This is the systematic harm and mistreatment of a person or a group and it is frequently because of a person's race or religious or political beliefs. It is a type of discrimination.

### Stereotypes

This is when you have a set idea of what a person is like based on only part of their identity for example their beliefs, their physical appearance, their nationality, where they live or what they do.

## Questions about the Diary

### Who is 'Kitty'?

- Kitty was the name that Anne used to address her diary.
- Anne did not invent the character. Kitty was a character in the Joop ter Heul series of books written by Cissy van Marxveldt.
- Before going into hiding Anne had started the series and finished it while in hiding.
- It is possible that the books may have inspired Anne to use the form of letters for her diary, as some of the books were written this way.
- Anne used Kitty as an imaginary friend as though she was writing a letter to her.
- Anne had originally tried out a few different names but then settled on Kitty, she said *“Dear Kitty...I like writing to you most, you know that don't you, and I hope the feeling is mutual.”*

### Why is it called 'The Secret Annexe'?

- Anne gave her diary the name 'Het Achterhuis' which translates into English as *The Secret Annexe*.
- Anne wrote that, *“Just imagine how interesting it would be if I were to publish a novel about the Secret Annexe! The title alone would make people think it was a detective story.”*
- The Secret Annexe was Anne and the other inhabitants name for their hiding place in the upper part of the back annexe of Otto Frank's workplace.

## Questions about the Diary

### How did the diary survive?

- The SS officer and the team of Dutch police officers went through the Annexe taking anything of value.
- They used Otto's briefcase, that Anne had been using to store her writing things in, to carry things away and her Diary and other papers were left behind.

### How did so many photos survive?

- Some were in the Diary.
- Some had been taken into hiding and were left behind after the arrest.
- Otto was a keen photographer and owned his own Leica camera, so many photos were taken over the years before they went into hiding.
- Many photos had been sent to families and friends, some in places like Switzerland and the US, and so were gathered together later.

### Why are the names of the people in the Annexe different to the names in the Diary (or film, drama or play)?

- Anne started to rewrite her diary for publication and gave people pseudonyms (false names).
- The adaptations of the Diary tend to keep the false names and the Diary as published keeps some of the changes.
- Albert Dussel is the name she gave to Fritz Pfeffer – Dussel is a German word for 'idiot' or 'nincompoop'.
- Anne gave the Van Pels family, the name Van Daan in her diary. She also called Hermann, Hans, and Auguste, Petronella.

## Questions about the Diary

### Who betrayed them?

- Nobody knows who betrayed them in hiding, if indeed they were betrayed as opposed to a more random raid.
- We probably will never know for certain the answer to this question as those involved are no longer alive.
- The helpers were cleared and actually given an honour for helping to hide the 8 people.
- Various people have been brought under suspicion but all have been cleared.

### Why did they betray them?

- It's possible that it was for reward money that was offered to people informing about Jews in hiding.
- However, the reward money was never claimed, according to the records.

# Questions about Hitler and the Nazis

## Why did Hitler hate Jews?

Do not get drawn into this one. There have been various speculations but the simple answer is Hitler did not invent antisemitism.

- Many speculations are based on antisemitic or Holocaust-denial ideas.
- Any explanation that point to past experiences, never explain the horrendous actions of Hitler and other perpetrators of the Holocaust.
- Antisemitism is centuries old.
- Hitler was one of the many people, in Germany, the rest of Europe and across the world who were antisemitic.
- He liked to scapegoat Jews for the problems Germany was facing.
- Antisemitism was a central part of his ideology as he rose to power and he and the Nazis used propaganda to convince other people likewise.

## How could Hitler have wanted everyone to have blonde hair and blue eyes when he didn't?

Not as simple as that – he wanted racial purity not blonde hair/blue eyes.

- People tend to think that because in propaganda posters, publicity photos of youth groups and soldiers, the images tend to show fair-haired people.
- In actual fact, there were many Jewish people with fair hair and blue eyes and some Jewish people were used in propaganda to show the 'perfect German'.

## Questions about Hitler and the Nazis

### But I heard that Hitler had a Jewish grandparent?

This is a frequently asked question when teaching about the Holocaust and is often stated as fact.

- This theory comes from Hitler's paternal grandfather being unknown and rumoured to be part of the Jewish family his grandmother worked for. We do not know who Hitler's grandfather was and therefore we are unable to say whether or not he was part of the Jewish family.
- However, for more traditional Jews (Orthodox) to be Jewish goes through the mother this means that even if Hitler's grandfather was Jewish, he definitely could not be considered to be Jewish.
- Hitler didn't identify as Jewish.
- Hitler was also very antisemitic and believed Jewish people were inferior to him.

## Questions about antisemitic Stereotypes

### Weren't all Jews were rich?

- Throughout history Jewish people have been portrayed to be rich, money lenders. This is a stereotype of the Jewish community, which dates back to medieval times. Just like any other religious community, there are both rich, poor and everyone inbetween in Jewish communities across the world. This was also the case before the Holocaust. Similarly, Jewish people, like any others, can be found in many different jobs and professions.
- Jewish people have been persecuted by different countries for centuries and were often not allowed to practise certain professions, with only some jobs allowed for them—this includes being a money-lender, a job that was imposed on them.

### Aren't all Jews white, from Eastern Europe, and have big noses?

- Jewish people are from lots of different countries around the world. There are Jews in Spain, Brazil, Argentina, Ethiopia and France, for example.
- Hitler and the Nazis tried consistently to find 'racial traits' that would separate Jewish people from others, but never managed to do this. Their beliefs had no scientific basis and were completely wrong.
- It is worth noting here, that even if a group of people did have certain features, just like the colour of their skin, it would not be a reason to judge them, discriminate against them or persecute them.
- Assuming all Jewish people are from one heritage and look the same is antisemitic and leaves out Jews of colour and Jews who don't meet the stereotype. For example, Jewish people having big noses is a stereotype that comes from propaganda.



## Useful websites to learn more

- [Anne Frank Fonds](#)
- [The Anne Frank House](#)
- [Anne Frank Video Diary](#)
- [The Frank Family Center, Jewish Museum Frankfurt](#)
- [Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum](#)
- [The Holocaust Explained by The Wiener Holocaust Library](#)
- [The Holocaust Educational Trust](#)
- [The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust](#)
- [The Imperial War Museum](#)
- [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)
- [UNESCO: Education about the Holocaust and genocide](#)
- [Yad Vashem—The World Holocaust Remembrance Center](#)