**The Christian Value of Hope**

**Key Stage 2 – Reflection 1**

This reflection uses the poem ‘Look Out’ by Philip Ardagh to explore Christian hope as being like an open door.

**You will need the associated Powerpoint.**

Ask the children to close their eyes and imagine that they are looking through one of the windows in their house. Ask them to think about what they can see. Share a few of the ‘views’.

Read the poem on **slide one** until the line ‘From your tiny box’.

Explore with the children who the poem might be speaking to (people across the world).

Look at **slide 2** at this point. Discuss the views from windows in different parts of the world. Talk about where the windows may be, who might be looking out of them? Tell the children that, despite views from the windows all being different, the poem goes on to talk about what people across the world can share. Read the remainder of the poem.

Discuss the children’s ideas about the poet’s view of hope that all people can share. Is it something good or bad? What does the poet mean when he says that the window can become a door if we have hope?

Tell the children that Jesus once told a story about opening doors.

It was about sheep in a pen. The pen that Jesus was describing was like their house. Its where the sheep are safe from predators and thieves. In the morning, the shepherd opens the gate to the pen. He goes inside and talks to his sheep and they love to listen to the shepherd. He calls them out and he looks after them while they’re out in the field. Then, in the evening he leads the sheep back to the safety of the pen. In the story there’s a gatekeeper who opens up the gate for the sheep and the sheep can go inside and rest and settle down for the night.

But one day, along came a thief. The thief wanted to steal one of the sheep so he tried to see how he could get in. He could not get through the gate, but the gatekeeper said “I know what you want to do. You want to steal a sheep!”, so the thief tried to break down the gate but the gate was strong! Next he decided to try climb over the side, then the gatekeeper knew that the man was definitely a thief!”. He chased him away.

After Jesus told that story he said to the people … ‘I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture…….I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.’ John 10:9-10

Jesus said that he is like a door, ask the children what they think means. Discuss that it was a way of Jesus saying that He will keep us safe, that we can always be certain that He loves us and wants the best for us. This is what Christian hope is all about – we can have certain hope that God, through Jesus, will protect and love us.

Look at the poem again and the lines :

And hope becomes

Reality

When the window

Becomes a door

And you can throw it wide.

You may like to end this reflection with a prayer.

**Closing Prayer**

Lord, help me to hear you saying, ‘I am your hope.’ Fill us up with hope for ourselves, our family and friends and people across the world.

God, you know those things in my heart that I barely dare to hope for. Today I give them to you, I trust them to you, because I know that you can do more than I could ever guess, imagine or request in my wildest dreams. God, today we pray for our hopes and the hopes of people across the world whatever window or door they are looking through. Amen.