A picture containing diagram

Description automatically generated**All Are Welcome**

by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufmann.

**Key Stage 1**

**You will need:**

**PowerPoint slides, You Tube story or a copy of the book All are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufmann.**

**Introduction**

This reflection introduces the concept of everyone being made in God’s image even though we all look different and are unique.

Start by asking the children to look in a mirror and to think about what their face looks like. Ask them to look at the colours in their hair, their eyes and their skin. Look at the shape of their nose, their mouth and their chin. Take a few verbal responses about individual children’s appearances.

Ask the children to share one thing that they particularly like about their face.

Ask the children to look at a friend and do the same task. Note what is the same and what is different (you can use your face too!)

Emphasise that we are all different but have some things the same.

Tell the children that they are going to look at a book where they will see lots of different people.

**The story**

Hold up the story **All Are Welcome** by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman or look at **slide 1** of the PowerPoint.

Look at the different people on the front cover and ask the children what they notice about them, what is the same/different etc. Why do they think the book is called ‘All Are Welcome’? Why is it important to be welcoming? What would happen if the book was called ‘Some People Are Welcome?’, Would that be all right? Why not?

Either read the story, or click on the icon to play the You Tube recording.

There follows a range of activities for this reflection, taking elements of the book. Teachers are advised to select the activities they may want to do depending on the age and maturity of the class. Alternatively, teachers may choose to reflect on these ideas with the children over a series of sessions.

**Slide 2** Look at the line: ‘In our classroom safe and sound, fears are lost, and hope is found’. What do we think this means?

Can you give an example of how someone might feel safe in school? How could our school make sure that we have hope?

**Slide 3** Look at the line ‘We’re part of a community’.

Do you know what the word ‘community’ means?

Why do you think the children feel that they are a community?

**Slide 4** Look at the line ‘our strength is our diversity’.

Ask the children what it would be like if everyone was the same?

What would be good about that? What would be bad?

Why is it good to have people that are different?

Think about a football team, a school or a family – we all have different gifts, talents and weaknesses.

**Slide 5** Look at the last two pages and notice how all the families are different, not just the children. Why do we think this is important?

**Reflection**

**Slide 6** Tell the children that the book tells us that we are all welcome. In the Bible we learn that Jesus also wanted to welcome everybody.

Look at the PowerPoint slide and ask the children how this verse links to the book.

Tell the children that the verse from 1 John goes on to say that we must not just talk about welcoming and loving everyone, we should show it practically too. Ask the children how we could show welcome and love to someone who came to our class/school? What if they looked different or spoke or dressed differently?

**Slide 7** Look at the different ways of saying welcome in the book. You make like the children to practise saying welcome in different languages. Is welcoming somebody just about words? What else could we do?

Play some gentle music (You could follow the link on the slide) and ask the children to reflect on how good they are at welcoming people who are different from themselves. Finish with the prayer below:

**Slide 7 Prayer**

Dear God

Thank you for making us all different.

Sorry for the times when we have not made people feel welcome.

Please help us to welcome others with open arms and kind hearts.

Amen