As Christians believe that Jesus is the light of the world, they also believe that they should reflect the light of Jesus’ love to others. A mirror catches the light and passes it on. In a similar way Christians believe that they should pass on the love of Jesus. Demonstrate how a mirror reflects the light using this as a focus for the theme of the week – add the mirror to your display.

SEAL link – Getting on
Values link - Love

GATHER

ENGAGE

MOSES REFLECTS THE LIGHT OF GOD (whole school)
Exodus 34 v 29-35
When Moses received the tablets containing the Ten Commandments he came down from Mount Sinai and his face was radiant (shining). This was because he had met with God. He also did what God asked of him even when it was difficult – he had stood up to Pharaoh and led the people across the Red Sea and through the wilderness even though they were often ungrateful and disobedient. Moses reflected the light of God by being a loyal servant. If Moses had not reflected the light of God, then the people might not have known that he had met with God. Act out a scene in which two people meet and then go their separate ways and tell someone else about whom they have just met. If we all do that and tell people about meeting with Jesus, then more and more people will know. People should know that we have met with Jesus and reflect his light by how excited we are and by how brightly we ‘shine’.

JESUS REFLECTS THE LIGHT OF GOD (whole school)
Mark 9 v 2-13
The episode involving Moses is echoed in the Transfiguration – Jesus is seen by the disciples shining and in dazzling white clothes. There are a number of paintings of this scene by famous artists, which would help pupils to appreciate the importance of light in this account. You could start with one of these to introduce the Biblical account asking about who is in the picture, what might be happening etc Tell this story using an appropriate Bible version. God’s voice is heard echoing the words of Jesus’ baptism “This is my son whom I love. Listen to him”. God is telling the disciples to ‘reflect’ the teaching of Jesus in what they say and do, which is a message for all time. Are there people whom the children would like to “reflect”?

RESPOND

Take one or several of these ideas to use each day:

A candle cannot light itself. It needs to receive light from another.  
*Father God, thank you for the light that Jesus brings to us and the light we can pass on to others.*

A candle when lit can give away its light without losing the light it has. (perhaps you could demonstrate this by lighting a small tea light from the central candle)
*Father God, thank you that you give us so much love that we can give away love to others without losing what we already have*

A candle burns as bright when it is new, as when there is only a small amount of the original candle left (perhaps you could demonstrate this by lighting another pillar candle that is not as tall because it has already

SEND

(as for Gathering)

or

We go into the world to walk in God’s light, to rejoice in God’s love and to reflect God’s glory.

Amen
LOOKING AT OUR OWN REFLECTION (whole school)
Proverbs 27 v 19
Use a big mirror if you have one - ask pupils to look at themselves and to describe what they see (it is probably best to ‘rehearse’ your examples!). This will focus on the external characteristics of the person. How could that person’s image be improved? Make-up, tucking shirt in etc. Make this a humorous introduction! ‘Shrek’ also makes the point that external appearance is not what is important but rather a transformation of how someone acts and thinks. Would a mirror that showed the “inside” reflection of a person be a good thing? Perhaps pretend that your mirror does show a reflection of the inside of you or of someone else. Discuss the good/bad things that might be seen in such a mirror, and how this interior image might be changed to give a more beautiful reflection.

REFLECTIONS (class or Key Stage worship)
Look at different reflections – in mirrors/in water/in tin foil. Are all these reflections the same? Which do the children like the best? Are any of the reflections not quite perfect? Are there times when it is difficult to reflect Jesus’ light perfectly/well, when we do not quite get things right and so the image is a bit hazy and out of focus? What sorts of things in our lives might mean that we do not truly reflect who Jesus wants us to be? The first line of the Lord’s Prayer could be a focus “Father, help us to honour your name” – this is one way of being a better reflection of the light of God which is seen so clearly in Jesus.

burned lower)
Father God, thank you that whatever age we are, we can still be used by you to be a light for you to each other

A candle’s light is sensitive, reacting to the slightest movement of the air around it.
(you could demonstrate this by blowing gently - though beware, this will encourage the children to do the same and maybe less gently!)
Father God, thank you that you pick up every little thought and feeling that we have because you care about us. Help us to be sensitive and kind to others.

A candle’s light is the same whatever the size, shape or colour of the candle. (introduce some other candles, of different shapes and colours)
Father God, thank you that we all matter to you and are of equal value to you even though we are each very different. Help us to see the light of your love burning in everyone we meet.

Ideas from barnabasinschools.org.uk