

# Religious Education

All children – regardless of gender, starting point or background – will have the opportunity to engage with a high-quality religious education. They will be equipped with the knowledge, skills and vocabulary to learn through a diocese linked curriculum that provides opportunities to reflect, discuss and explore more about the world in which they live in. The curriculum provides children with the knowledge of different religious traditions, celebrations, stories and values. Our RE curriculum pupils develop an understanding of themselves and others as well as respecting differences. Lessons will promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of individuals and communities. We intend to inspire a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about different world religions.

## Hinduism



## How do Hindus worship?

Summer 2

### Igniting Prior Knowledge:

Year 3 (Hinduism - How do Hindus view God and how is Diwali celebrated?)

- Hindus believe in a universal soul or God called Brahman. Brahman takes on many forms that some Hindus worship as gods or goddesses in their own right.
- As the god of beginnings, he is honoured at the start of rites and ceremonies.
- There are three main Gods worshipped called the 'Trimurti'. Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.
- Ganesha is the Hindu god recognised for having the head of an elephant and the body of a boy.
- The large elephant head of Lord Ganesha symbolises wisdom, understanding, and a discriminating intellect that one must possess to attain perfection in life. The two tusks denote the two aspects of the human personality, wisdom and emotion. The right tusk represents wisdom and the left tusk represents emotion.
- The four arms of Lord Ganesha represent the four inner attributes of the body: mind, intellect, ego and conditioned conscience
- The body possesses a human heart, which is a symbol of compassion and kindness to all.
- Diwali is the Hindu festival of 'lights' which celebrate New Year. It is calculated by the Hindu lunar calendar and falls on a different day each year. Normally October or November.
- Diwali is a 5 day celebration.
- During Diwali, Hindus will decorate their homes with lights and candles, let off fireworks, decorate with rangoli patterns and clean their homes.
- Ramayana teaches Hindus about good evil.
- The Bhagavad Gita is one of the holy books of Hinduism. It was written thousands of years ago. It has teachings said to be given by Lord Krishna (an incarnation whom many Hindus believe to be the god Vishnu in human form.)

### New Knowledge:

- Aum is the main symbol of Hinduism. It is the sound heard in deepest meditation and is said to be the name most suited for God.
- Most Hindus worship (puja) every day at home and have a shrine there. A shrine can be anything from a room, a small altar or simply pictures or statues. Family members often worship together. At the shrine, Hindus make offerings to a murti. A murti is a sacred statue of God, or a god or goddess.
- Holi is a festival of colour, celebrated in March.
- Hinduism is monotheistic because there are multiple Gods.
- Hindus believe life is a cycle of birth, death and re-birth. Actions in this life, our Karma have an effect on our future.
- Dharma means that performing all the duties of a householder and raising children is a step on the way to achieving Moksha.



Religious & Cultural Diversity