

Key end points for this unit on Hinduism are:

- Hinduism is a religion followed by Hindus.
- Many Hindus worship many gods and goddesses that are manifestations of Brahman
- Hindus believe in reincarnation, the belief that the soul is eternal and passes through a cycle of successive
- Karma is the idea that future incarnation is dependent on how the previous life was lived.
- Hindu worship is called Puja and can happen at a shrine at home or in a mandir.
- Diwali is known as a Hindu festival of lights.

This unit introduces pupils to the key beliefs and practices of Hinduism. While links will be made to other religions previously studied (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam), the main focus is to deepen understanding of Hinduism as a distinct faith tradition.

Pupils will explore the idea of Brahman, the universal God in Hinduism who is believed to be present in everything. They will learn about the Trimurti—three forms of Brahman:

- Brahma (the creator)
- Vishnu (the preserver)
- Shiva (the destroyer)

These gods are seen as manifestations of one God, which shows the monotheistic element of Hindu belief. However, as many Hindus also worship other gods and goddesses, Hinduism can also be understood as polytheistic—with over 330 million deities representing different aspects of Brahman. In historical context, pupils will learn that Hinduism is the oldest religion they've studied so far—developing long before Judaism, Christianity, or Islam. Hinduism will continue to be used as a reference point in future multifaith units, helping children make comparisons and connections across belief systems.

As part of this unit, pupils will revisit and develop their understanding of special books and places, now introducing the word sacred to describe things that hold deep religious importance. This builds on their earlier learning in:

- Year 1: discovering religion
- Year 2: places of worship, religious symbols and artefacts
- Year 3: Hindu creation stories

This unit marks the beginning of our exploration of Dharmic religions, which includes Hinduism, Sikhism (Year 4), and Buddhism (Year 5). Dharmic religions are united by a belief in Dharma—a moral duty that helps guide how people live. Pupils will begin to learn core ideas such as karma (the idea that actions have consequences) and reincarnation (the belief in rebirth after death), forming the foundation for future learning.

As pupils explore Hindu beliefs, they'll encounter the concept of Brahman—the universal spirit that Hindus believe exists in all things. This belief encourages respect for all living beings, and children will be invited to reflect on how they show respect in their own lives. These reflections may be religious or personal in nature, helping children connect ideas from the classroom to their own values and experiences.

Teachers will actively model reflective language and support children in expressing their ideas clearly and respectfully. Sentence starters such as:

- Personally, I feel that...
- In my experience... will guide pupils in building thoughtful and meaningful responses.

This unit prepares children to engage with ideas about belief, morality, and personal values, helping them grow as curious and respectful learners.

Lesson Sequencing:

The sequence of lessons in this unit has been designed to build on prior knowledge and introduce new material in small, manageable steps. In lesson 1 children will be introduced to Hinduism as the third largest religion in the world followed by Hindus all around the world, with a vast majority in India. They will learn the Supreme god is called Brahman is expressed and made known to humans through many other Gods and Goddesses.

In lesson 2, children will explore the Hindu belief of Brahman. One of the ways Brahman is represented is by the Hindu aum or om symbol. (Show children the symbol) Hindus believe that aum is the sound that was made when the universe began. Hinduism recognizes up to 333 million gods which are like pieces of Brahman. These gods are sent to help people understand Brahman. The three most important Hindu gods (forms of Brahman) are: Brahma (creator). Vishnu (preserver), Shiva (destroyer).

In lesson 3, children will explore key beliefs in Hinduism. The concepts of reincarnation is the belief that the soul is eternal and passes through a successive cycle. It is important that children understand reincarnation is the result of good or bad **karma** that is earned through an individual's actions.

In lesson 4, children will revisit the idea of sacred text and place. In this lesson children will learn the Vedas is the most ancient of the many texts and scriptures used in Hinduism. The Ramayana contains the famous story of Rama and Sita which will be covered more in lesson 5. Students will also learn that Hindu worship takes the form of devotion or worship at a shrine which can be at home or in a mandir.

In lesson 5 will cover two Hindu festivals. **Diwali** is considered the festival of lights, celebrating the victory of good over evil in the Triumph of Rama and Sita. Children will be able to make similar links with the festival of **Holi** known as the festival of colors which also celebrates triumph over evil.

Lesson 6 will be the assessment lesson for this unit. The suggested assessment task is to create a knowledge showcase of what children now know of Hinduism. This could be a double page piece of work which includes definition of key vocabulary, diagrams or labels to highlight knowledge, key concepts that have been explored, explanations of themes we have covered and reflections on what children believe is important. This will provide children with an opportunity to identify the most memorable or important parts of the unit so far. Teachers should still model a high-quality example of this so children will have a guide of the expectations. Teachers could adjust this task by scaffolding a blank knowledge organizer with suggested headings.

The key concepts: Polytheistic, reincarnation, Karma, Moksha, pilgrimage

Key terms: Brahman, Vedas, mandir, Puja , shrine, Diwali, Holi