

# 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 view God and how is Diwali celebrated?

Autumn 1

### New Knowledge:

- The Hindu place of worship is called a 'Mandir' (Temple) - Hindus must remove their shoes when entering to show their respect. Hindus do not have to go to the Mandir to pray or hold religious ceremonies.
- Each mandir has a mandir bell which worshipers ring when they enter to announce their arrival to God.
- At the mandir, Hindus will worship different Gods. The service of worship is called Aarti, and is performed at least twice a day.
- 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 four arms (body of a boy) 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 and is a 5-day festival celebration.
- During Diwali, Hindus will decorate their homes with lights and candles, let off fireworks, decorate with rangoli patterns and clean their homes.
- Light is also symbolic for humanists. For some Humanists the candle is used as a symbol of the light of reason or rationality. The Humanist festival of Human Light often features a candle-lighting ceremony.\*\*
- Ramayana teaches Hindus about good vs. evil.
- The Bhagavad Gita is one of the holy books of Hinduism. It was written thousands of years ago.

### Key

### Vocabulary:

- Brahma
- Vishnu
- Shiva
- Brahman
- Ganesh
- Ramayana
- Bhagavat
- Gita
- Lord Krishna
- Diwali
- Hindu
- Trimurti
- Mandir
- Universal
- Soul
- Aum
- Light

