

# Wellesley Park Primary School – Religions Education

**Topic: Unit 9** What do Hindu people believe about Dharma, Deity and Atman?

**Year 6 Autumn term**

## Essential Core (Summary of unit)

- I will understand that thousands of years ago, Hindu books called the Vedas described many ways of thinking about God with special names, images and stories to help Hindus remember and understand about God.
- I will understand that Hindus believe that whilst the natural world is all from within God and so is to be treated as special, the Ganges is a holy river to visit and Shiva is a special and particularly powerful form of God to worship.
- I will know that Hinduism teaches that there is one Supreme Being/Person, **Brahman**. Brahman is everywhere and everything that exists lives in Brahman all the time. Nothing would exist if Brahman was not in it.
- I will know the **Holi** festival celebrates spring, community and equality, reminding Hindus to respect the natural world and its seasons.
- I will recall the Hindu greeting Namaste and its meaning: 'I respect you', because Hindus believe the same God is inside every heart and must be treated as one world-family.

### What should I already Know?

- Hindus do not have one holy book but many ancient texts and scriptures.
- The story of Rama and Sita.
- Puja helps Hindus be quiet enough to 'hear' God guiding them from within and to know Hindus can perform Puja at home or in a place of worship called a Mandir.
- Divali is the Hindu festival of light. They remember that God guides us in life the way lamps light up darkness, to help us see our way.
- Hindu holy books describe Rama AND Krishna as special people called Avatars.
- Hindus aim to visit places where the Avatars lived.
- Hindus believe that they can also worship God in other divine forms (or deities) alongside the Avatars, such as a loving mother (Devi), Lakshmi.

### Important Facts

- Hinduism being a pluralistic religion offers a vast variety of concepts of God, broadly divided into 2 groups: God as a personality (sometimes with form and sometimes without form), Concept of God as a principle that underpins everything (**Brahman/Atman** and is an unusual approach to God).
- Hinduism suggests that as we are human one of the ways we can relate to the idea of God is to think of Him or Her as having a personality. The form chosen is not the form of God but the form the devotee likes to use to think of God.
- Hinduism teaches that there are hundreds of ways to think about God.
- Hindus say that God not only lives in heaven, He is here too. They say that God has been in front of us all the time but we just did not realise it.
- Brahman is the special name Hindus give to God appearing as everything and everyone. This Brahman is seen most clearly in human beings and is called **Atman**.
- The Atman persists and is reborn many times. This continual cycle is called Samsara.
- The type of life an Atman moves onto depends on its previous one. This is determined by the Law of Karma.
- The end of Samsara is called Moksha. The soul breaks out of reincarnation and joins with Brahman
- The Hindu word for acting from personal preference, without attention to **Dharma** is called Karma and it always impacts on ourselves and others.

## Vocabulary

WORD	Meaning	Image
<b>Brahman</b>	Brahman is the supreme spirit and the other gods and goddesses are different representations of Brahman.	
<b>Holi</b>	a Hindu spring festival celebrated in February or March in honour of Krishna.	
<b>Deity</b>	A god or goddess.	
<b>Dharma</b>	Dharma is a complex idea that includes the right behaviour, following the moral law.	
<b>Atman</b>	A part of Brahman within each person, which forms an individual's soul.	