

Lincolnshire Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
KS2 Compulsory Unit: God (Hinduism)

- *How are deities and key figures described in Hindu sacred texts and stories?*
- *What might Hindus understand about the Divine through these stories?*
- *What is the purpose of visual symbols in the mandir?*

- Hinduism as an umbrella term for a collection of religious expressions
 - Some Hindus describe it as **Sanatana Dharma** (the 'eternal duty')
 - Hinduism is a **monotheistic** religion (belief in one ultimate reality)
 - **Brahman**, the ultimate reality, the life force in all things
 - **Trimurti** – **Brahma** (creator – the beginning of life), **Vishnu** (preserver – the sustaining of life), **Shiva** (destroyer – the end of life) – representing the cycle of life (helping Hindus worship **Brahman**, the ultimate reality)
 - The symbol of the lotus flower and its association with **Brahma**, **Vishnu** and the story of creation
 - Other deities as a means of understanding more about **Brahman**, the ultimate reality, e.g. **Lakshmi**, **Hanuman**, **Ganesh**
 - **Atman** (the soul) – the bit of the ultimate reality in all living things
 - The **atman** travels continuously through the cycle of life: **samsara** (birth, life, death, reincarnation)
 - The goal is for the **atman** to break free from this cycle of life (**moksha**)
 - Human beings can achieve **moksha** through fulfilling their **dharma** (duty) - the actions (**karma**) they carry out help them do this; good action (**karma**) help humans fulfil their **dharma** (duty) and achieve **moksha**, bad action (**karma**) prevent humans from fulfilling their **dharma** (duty) and achieving **moksha**
 - Stories from the **Ramayana**, **Bhagavad Gita**, **Mahabarata**, e.g. the story of Rama and Sita in the **Ramayana** – a story about doing – or not doing – your duty (**dharma**), the story of Arjuna and Krishna in the **Mahabarata** – a story about doing your duty (**dharma**), even when it is challenging to do so; the ways in which this links with the idea of **Brahman**, the ultimate reality, and the cycle of life
- The **aum** symbol: a symbol of Brahman and the **atman**; some Hindus believe it to be the first sound of creation (the beginning of the life cycle); the use of the **aum** sound during meditation and in Hindu holy texts, e.g. the Upanishads