

Lincolnshire Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

KS3 Compulsory Unit: Being Human (Hinduism)



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The questions we might ask:

- *What affects Hindu beliefs and attitudes towards others and the environment?*
- *In what ways do the four varnas (social classes) impact upon Hindu society?*
- *How and why do Hindus engage in social action? What are the four paths (margas)?*

The ideas we might explore

- The concept of **ahimsa** (non-violence) and its connection with **dharma** (eternal law/duty) and **karma** (action)
- The connection between **Brahman** as the source of all existence and Hindu action towards human beings and the natural world
- The four **varnas**: **shudras**, **vaishyas**, **Kshatriyas** and **brahmins**
- The implications of the four **varnas** for social cohesion and ethics
- Changing attitudes towards the **varnas** in the twenty-first century
- The four **yamas** (virtues): **ahimsa**, **daya** (compassion), **dama** (self-control) and **dana** (generosity and giving) and their impact on Hindu action towards human beings and the natural world
- **Dharma** and its connection with morality
- The four **margas** (paths): **jnana** (knowledge), **karma** (action), **bhakti** (devotion) and **astanga/raja** (mind and meditation)