

## Medium Term Plan: Religious Education

### UKS2, Year B Hindu dharma

**Key Question (to be used all year):** Is life like a journey?

**Focus Question (for this investigation):** Is there one journey or many?

#### Concepts:

Transcendence

Belief

Worship

Tradition

Morality

Commitment

Identity

Interdependence

#### Key Vocabulary:

Reincarnation – the rebirth of a soul in another body.

Samsara – the cycle of death and rebirth to which life in the world is bound.

Ashramas – any of the our stages of an ideal life, ascending from the status of pupil to the total renunciation of the world.

Law of Karma – the belief that every action you take will have an equal reaction. “If you plant wholesome seeds, you will grow wholesome fruit.”

**Prior learning:** To understand the way a Hindu may live based on their beliefs on reincarnation

#### Core Knowledge: In depth study

- Pupils could bring in a photograph of themselves as a baby/toddler – class could try to guess who each photo is of and talk about what has changed/what has stayed the same about each person
- Look at images of elderly people and discuss thoughts and feeling about the fact that getting old and eventually dying is part of the human experience. As a class, list beliefs and ideas that people might have about the purpose of human life
- Explore Hindu beliefs about the cycle of samsara – the view that the soul (the atman) is in a continuous flow of life, death and rebirth – with an eventual aim of reaching Moksha (freedom from samsara)
- Discuss how belief in the law of karma and the process of samsara might affect a Hindu’s sense of purpose in life
- Pupils could design a ‘Game of Life’ using a snakes and ladders board layout. Pupils could add own suggested positive/negative actions to the bottom of ladders/top of snakes.
- Learn about the four ashramas – the four stages of life in Hindu tradition
- Investigate how Hindus mark important stages in life (the 16 samskaras).
- Plan a ceremony that could be used to mark and celebrate the transition from primary school to secondary – think about what they have learnt from the Sacred Thread ceremony (eg. acknowledging and showing gratitude to the people who have helped on life’s journey so far, making a declaration of commitment to the next stage of life, symbolic actions to demonstrate readiness for the new responsibilities and independence)
- Discuss whether or not pupils think it is helpful to have special ceremonies to mark transition points in life. Is it the end of one stage or the beginning of a new one that is celebrated? Is the next stage of life really a fresh start or simply the continuance of a journey?

#### Key Questions: -

How have I changed during my life so far?

Do I have a sense of purpose in life?

Am I prepared for future changes in life?

What makes us human?

How do humans change during the journey of life?

Is there an ultimate purpose to human life – if so, what?

DO we have a duty to the people we meet on life’s journey?

How do rites of passage help prepare Hindus for each new stage of life and teach the dharma for each stage?

What are the Hindu beliefs about Karma and reincarnation and how might they impact the way that the believe lives?

What is the concept of Moksha as the ultimate destination of the soul and liberation from samsara?

Is there one journey or many?

**Wider Influences: worth being familiar with**

- Watch 'My religion, my life: Hinduism' clip about belief in reincarnation  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uq6\\_HUMtQtI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uq6_HUMtQtI)
- Focus on the Sacred Thread ceremony (the Upanayana) which celebrates the child being seen as responsible enough to take on religious duties. <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/clips/zmmgkqt>
- Discuss how the ceremony might help the Hindu child to understand the role and duties of the brahmacharya stage.

**Enduring Understanding:**

- To analyse Hindu beliefs about samsara, karma and moksha and how these are linked
- To explain how belief in reincarnation might affect the way in which a Hindu views the 'journey of life'
- To describe and explain the four ashramas (stages of life) in the life of a Hindu
- To consider the importance of the samskaras in preparing a Hindu for the commitments of each ashrama