

Year: 4

Term: Autumn 1

Topic: Hinduism – What do Hindus believe God is like?

St Dennis Primary Academy

“Everyone matters, everyone succeeds, every moment counts”



The Hindu tradition is diverse and ever changing and according to the 2021 Census, 1.7% of the population of the UK are Hindus.

The ultimate reality is known as **Brahman** who is the source of everything in the universe. The **atman** is a spark of Brahman in every living creature and the **namaste** welcome is a way of recognising the spark of Brahman inside every living creature.



The **Aum** symbol represents Brahman but was also the first sound in the creation of the universe.

Brahman can be found in many different forms, known as **deities**. For many Hindus the three most important deities are known as the **Trimurti**.

Brahma is the creator deity who is responsible for the creation of the universe. **Vishnu** is the preserver deity who maintains the universe and **Shiva** is the destroyer deity so that new things can begin in the cycle of life and death.



Another important deity for Hindus is **Lakshmi**. At Diwali, many Hindus will put statues of Lakshmi outside their homes in the hope that she will visit the home and bring the family good fortune for the new year.

Glossary

- atman** The spark of Brahman in every living creature.
- Aum** The sacred symbol that describes Brahman; the first sound of creation.
- Brahma** The creator of things who created the universe, people and creatures.
- Brahman** A formless, one energy or consciousness in the universe, the source of everything.
- deity** Brahman channelled into different forms.
- Hindu** A Hindu is a person who believes in Hinduism (an Indian religion) and follows its teachings.
- Lakshmi** The deity of wealth and prosperity.
- namaste** Bowing slightly and putting hands together.
- Shiva** The destroyer of things so new things can begin.
- Vishnu** The sustainer of all living things.