

# RE Knowledge Organiser

## 'What does it mean to be Hindu in Britain today?'

### Hinduism as a way of life

Hinduism is a religion that has fused many different traditions and practices. There is no one way to be a Hindu. In saying this, all Hindus believe in four core beliefs: dharma, karma, artha and moksha. Throughout their lives, Hindus attempt to behave in a way that provides good karma in this life and the next. In this way, Hinduism is not just a religion; it is a culture, a code of behaviour and a way of life.

### How do Hindus celebrate Divali?

Divali is the most important festival of the Hindu year and can last for up to 5 days. Divali means lights, and throughout the festival, Hindus decorate their homes, temples and other buildings with lights. Hindus will also share meals and give each other cards and presents during the festival. In addition to Rama and Sita, Divali also remembers the goddess Lakshmi, who brings good fortune. She is supposed to visit houses that are clean and tidy and are lit with lamps, bringing people good luck throughout the coming year. Divali shows that darkness can be driven away by light. Divali is the start of the new year for Hindus.

*How and when do you celebrate the new year?*

Set yourself a target! By the end of this topic, what do you want to achieve?

Did you achieve your target? Yes / no



What is good about being a Hindu in Britain today?

### Hindus and showing their faith

Hindu worship is primarily an individual act rather than a communal one, as it involves making personal offerings to the deity. Worshippers repeat the names of their favourite gods and goddesses, and repeat mantras. Water, fruit, flowers and incense are offered to god. The majority of Hindu homes have a shrine where offerings are made and prayers are said; family members may choose to worship together in the home. Rituals should strictly speaking occur three times a day. When they attend the mandir, Hindus take off their shoes as a sign of respect and cleanliness. The worshipper then goes into the shrine room and rings a bell before walking around the shrine; they may choose to sing, chant or pray whilst doing this.

### Key Vocabulary

Mandir	The Hindu religious place of worship.
Dharma	The spiritual law for human beings. It is the way of goodness, truth and duty.
Sanatan Dharma	The eternal and absolute set of duties that every Hindu must practice no matter class, sect or caste.
Arti	A ritual performed in homes or temples in which incense and light is offered to the deity.
Divali	The festival of light.
Bhajans	A devotional song.
Puja	The act of worship in Hinduism.